



# FURY OVER CASH SPENT ON iPADS

Report by Jamie Brassington

**COUNCIL** chiefs in Dudley have been accused of 'wasting taxpayers' cash' after buying new computer equipment – including five new Apple iPads at a cost of £430 each.

The cash-strapped authority – currently in the midst of a savage round of cost-saving measures – bought the new iPads despite already having 42 working devices.

UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood labelled the iPads 'freebies' and described the cost as a 'total waste' of taxpayers' money.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of UKIP in Dudley, said: "I don't support councillors having freebies off the council, whether it is food or iPads. It is a total waste of taxpayers' money."

"UKIP rejected having the equipment. We have our own laptops and mobile phones, "This is a total lack of judgement. I don't see the need of buying more iPads."

"Why does a councillor need an iPad? I have been a councillor for two years and I can't think of one circumstance when I would need one. If I did I would buy my own."

## Flexibility

Councillor Patrick Harley, Conservative leader in Dudley, said: "Cuts are being made to the elderly, poor, and disenfranchised of society and the council go and do something like this – which is to purchase five new iPads when there are 42 in storage."

"They are making cuts and blaming everyone but themselves and buy five new iPads. It is shameful."

"The council have bought five iPad Air2 devices this year, at a total cost of £2,104."

A Freedom of Information request revealed the devices were bought to 'provide a productivity tool with access to email, systems and data on an agile basis.'

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said: "We have a small stock of ICT equipment which is regularly reviewed and assigned to members of staff which helps them carry out their duties with greater flexibility than ever before."

"We do not routinely keep a stock of iPads, those currently held in stores are all earmarked for redistribution to officers as part of the initiatives to introduce smarter working practices in the council and to ensure value for money. In essence, every iPad is in use, being repaired or about to be used. There is no spare capacity and therefore no waste of council money."

In recent weeks Dudley Council has announced plans to save money after Government funding cuts. These include slashing funding for various charities in the borough, moving the art gallery collection out of the town centre, slashing library opening hours and possibly demolishing several blocks of flats in Netherton.

## FLYING THE BLACK COUNTRY FLAG WITH PRIDE



Queen of the castle for Black Country Day – Miss Black Country Abigail Cutler from Rowley Regis flies the flag at Dudley Castle

THE Black Country flag was flown with pride across Dudley as the borough marked Black Country Day on Thursday and during the weekend.

Residents came out in force to celebrate all the region has to offer.

Since its launch in 2012, Black Country Day and its festival has gone from strength to strength.

Dignitaries gathered at Dudley Castle to fly the Black Country flag in front of one of the region's most iconic landmarks.

Festival organiser Steve Edwards said the

response from the public this year has been better than ever. He hailed the buzz Black Country Day created on social media as a sign of how support for the event continues to grow.

## Sharing

Mr Edwards said: "The turnout was absolutely amazing. The amount of people out on the streets was fantastic but not only that but the reaction on social media was absolutely crazy. People were sharing pictures of the Black Country flag and it went mad online."

"It's always been about bringing the community to the forefront and promoting the region. This has linked the community with councils and businesses which is great. To see people's pride and passion is fantastic."

There was a European twist to the event at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, which jointly celebrated Black Country Day and France's Bastille Day, which had extra significance later that evening due to the terror attack in Nice. French artist Josephine Tournebize flew the Tricolore flag outside her studio at the glass cone.

## COURT

### Man faces charges over moped collision

A MAN has been charged after a Cradley Heath student was allegedly knocked off his moped by a driver who did not stop.

Declan Osborne, 16, who attends Ormiston Forge Academy, was hit in Rowley Village on January 30 and was in a coma for two weeks after suffering multiple injuries.

Thomas Danny Dale, 24, of Habberley Road, Rowley Regis was bailed to appear at Sandwell magistrates on August 4. He is accused of driving without a licence and insurance, failing to report and failing to stop at an accident and causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

## TRIBUTE

### Newly wed Robbie has died, aged 34

TRIBUTES have been made to a popular Stourbridge rugby player who has died, aged 34, after being diagnosed with cancer earlier this year.

Robbie Eves last week married his partner, Gemma. The couple were wed surrounded by friends and family, including sons, Ruairidh, aged four, and Euan, 21 months, at St Thomas' Church in Stourbridge. His brother Alex Eves said: "We lost a truly great man, a devoted family man, the strongest and bravest man I've ever known."

## POLITICS

### MP appointed as senior health aide

HALESOWEN & Rowley Regis MP James Morris has been named as a senior aide to Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

Mr Morris will serve as Mr Hunt's Parliamentary private secretary, having previously carried out the role for Esther McVey and David Lidington.

He said: "Since 2012 I have been chairman of the all-party group on mental health, and been championing improved services for people who suffer from mental ill health. I will now be continuing this work within the Department for Health working alongside Jeremy Hunt and supporting the Government's commitment to the NHS."

## INSIDE

### FOLKS GO ON MONSTER HUNT



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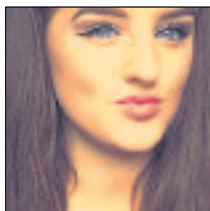
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# Daughter, 16, found dead at home



Phoebe Connop

A 16-year-old girl was found dead at her home by her family, who described her as a 'warm and loving' teenager.

Phoebe Connop was last seen alive by her father Laurence when he dropped her off at their home in Halesowen.

The Windsor High School pupil had been out for the day with her father. But after complaining of feeling tired, she was taken to the family home in Witley Avenue. When her father returned later, he found her dead.

An inquest has been opened into her death, on July 7.

At a hearing last week, Black Country Coroner Zafar Siddique heard how police concluded there was nothing suspicious about her death. He adjourned the inquest until August 26 for toxicology and police reports.

Step mother Lisa Connop, aged 42, said Phoebe, who was born in Stafford, was a keen gymnast who had ambitions of becoming a midwife.

She said the family found a 'wish list' in her bedroom following her death which listed she wished to study at sixth form.

Her death came days after her high school prom. Mrs Connop said: "It came completely out of the blue - everyone is devastated, we can't believe it."

She added: "She was extremely popular - we've had so many people come round, her death has touched many."

"She was a warm and loving teenager with her life ahead of her."

Mr Connop, aged 53, said: "The sympathy from the local area has been overwhelming." Phoebe leaves three sisters and two step brothers.

# Dementia centre now set to close its doors

**A DAY centre for dementia sufferers is to close because council bosses say not enough people use it.**

The Roseville Gateway centre in Coseley supports around 50 people a week but will shut by September 30 following a review of dementia services in Dudley borough.

Council bosses say those who attend the Coseley centre will be transferred to others in the borough - the Brett Young Gateway in Halesowen and the Crystal Gateway in Stourbridge. They said all three were 'running below expected capacity' and the closure would save £443,000.

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "The council is committed to improving people's wellbeing, maintaining or promoting their independence and reducing the need for formal care support through our dementia gateway service."

"The success of dementia advisors, who provide early help to people when they receive their diagnosis to remain living in their local communities, has resulted in fewer people visiting the borough's three dementia gateways."

## Transfer

"Following a review, the decision has been taken to close the Roseville Gateway by September 30. We have written to those who attend the service and we will be supporting them to transfer to Crystal and Brett Young gateways."

"People in Coseley with dementia will still be able to have an assessment of need at home. They will also be able to access the dementia advisor service, which can travel to people's homes to provide tailored support and advice."

Bosses say staff will have the opportunity to move to vacant positions in the borough, or express an interest in voluntary redundancy with compulsory redundancy a last resort.

Dudley Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harley labelled the move a 'backward step'. He added: "A lot of people use these services, including my own mother, and it is a hell of a job getting them places to attend on a regular basis. We should be giving more money to organisations like this."

## Market traders predict bright future



Former market stallholder Karen Salter of Beautiful Bounty has now settled into nearby premises

TRADERS have spoken of their hope for the future in Cradley Heath despite the closure of a market after 40 years.

Cradley Heath Market was left with just one stallholder after traders moved into nearby shop units in the Market Square.

Out of the 10 shops, four are now run by former traders from the market hall. Fishmonger Gary Link, who moved his business Pier 39 to a unit last August, said trade had come on 'leaps and bounds'.

He explained: "I started in the market in 1989. It was sad to see its closure but since moving here gradually more and more shops have been filled and more footfall comes in."

## Investment

Oyster Properties say they are in talks with Asda and Lidl over the future of the market hall.

Concerns were raised over falling footfall at the 40-capacity market hall, despite a five-figure

investment by the property group. A spokesman for Oyster said: "Although it was sad that the market has not survived, the great thing is that this has created a band of entrepreneurs to put life back into the High Street."

Karen Salter, from Beautiful Bounty ladieswear, said: "Trade has picked up so much since we moved here in March."

The Central Market nearby on High Street, known as the 'Little Market', is trading as normal.

# Police make appeal for witnesses to M5 accident

POLICE have launched an appeal for witnesses after a motorcyclist suffered serious injuries after hitting the central reservation of the M5 motorway.

The 57-year-old from Wolverhampton continues to be treated in hospital and is described as in a serious but stable condition, following the crash last Thursday afternoon.

It happened between junction 2 for Oldbury and 3 for Halesowen at around 3.40pm.

Police say the rider was on a red and silver Kawasaki motorbike which hit the central reservation.

The road was closed for several hours and an ambulance was called to take the rider to hospital.

Officers are appealing for anyone who saw the crash to contact them.

## Busy

PC Stuart Thorpe, from the regional collision investigation unit, said: "This happened at a busy time of day on a busy stretch of the M5 and we are appealing to any passing motorists who saw what happened to get in touch."

"The motorway was closed for several hours while we dealt with the collision and all lanes were reopened at around 7pm."

"Specialist officers are supporting the family and the driver at this time and investigations continue to establish the circumstances that led to the crash."

Anyone with information is urged to call PC Thorpe or PC Claire Byrne on 101.

# Suspected arson at derelict factory

IT is believed arson was the cause of a blaze at derelict factory in Halesowen, which was tackled by more than a dozen firefighters.

Fire crews were called to the scene at Excelsior Business Park on Thursday evening.

West Midlands Fire Service said callers had described 'large flames and smoke' coming from the building.

Twenty firefighters attended the blaze after being drafted in from Haden Cross, Smethwick, Oldbury and Woodgate Valley fire stations. Spokesman Neil Spencer said: "We had a call to Excelsior Industrial Estate on Cakemore Road at 10pm. A number of callers saying there were large flames and smoke coming from the site of the factory unit." Crews left the scene shortly before 1am.

# Lego-style Star Wars on display

AN exhibition of Star Wars characters made from Lego is at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery. The May the Force Be With You exhibition is in Gallery Nine until September 10. Entry is free and the museum in St James's Road is open 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday.

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# School told it must take more than 80 extra pupils

A SEDGLEY school that opposed taking pupils from The Coseley School has been forced to accept more than 80 youngsters by the Government.

Youngsters will take up their allocated places at Dormston School in September after the school was told it had no grounds to refuse admitting additional pupils. More than 80 pupils had been offered places at the school following the decision for a phased closure of The Coseley School by 2017.

However, Dormston objected to the additional numbers saying an influx of pupils would leave it unable to cope as it continues to progress after pulling itself out of special measures. School leaders wrote to the Secretary of State over Dudley Council's decision.

The Department for Education upheld the council's decision on Friday, confirming it had acted reasonably in requiring Dormston to accept the pupils. Dudley Council chiefs made it clear to Dormston it should immediately contact parents to arrange inductions, discuss options choices and transition arrangements.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services said: "We've been extremely disappointed Dormston School has objected to accepting a number of additional pupils.

"Since before the start of the consultation on the closure of Coseley in January, Dormston has been aware there would be implications for it and it would need to accommodate additional pupils. Unfortunately it has chosen not to act in the best interest of the children and parents."

## Saved pub is top with inn crowd

A PUB which was set to be bulldozed 18 months ago has won three awards from beer experts at the Campaign for Real Ale.

The accolades for The Swan Inn include being named Halesowen and Stourbridge's Pub of the Year 2016, a remarkable achievement considering it was on the brink only a year and a half ago.

The Long Lane hostelry was also named Cider Pub of the Year 2016 and took third place in the West Midlands County Pub of the Year 2016.

Raising their pint glasses in triumph, landlords Liz Oakley and Paul Hicks, were delighted at the success of their first pub, which was saved from being demolished after more than 700 signed a petition to rescue it.

## Lawyers stage a charity fun day

A Black Country legal firm is holding a family fun day next month. Brierley Hill-based Higgs & Sons is putting on the event in aid of the Stroke Association at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club on August 21, from noon to 3pm.

# Exhibition on rescue of historic chapels



Inside one of the historic chapels

AN exhibition is taking place at a pair of historic chapels in Lye to showcase the revamp of the Victorian landmark.

Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels in Cemetery Road had been abandoned for 20 years before the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust took the Grade II listed buildings over to rescue them.

The exhibition is on display at the Thomas Robinson Building, which is the new name for the chapels, and will run Monday to Saturday until the end of July.

The trust raised over £1,150,000 to fund the cost of the project to safeguard the iconic building, which ultimately created a suite of facilities for use by Dudley Council Citizenship & Registration Services.

A grant of £1,025,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund had provided the majority of the funding, with the remainder from a number of smaller funders.

The WMHBT commissioned a specialist heritage conservation team to carry out the work, led by architects Brownhill Hayward Brown of Lich-

field and contractors Croft Building and Conservation of Cannock.

The project represents an innovative transfer of ownership through the 'Community Asset Transfer' programme of Dudley Council, to take the previously dilapidated buildings into permanent local community ownership, and access heritage funding.

The trust has now leased back the converted offices and events space to the Council's Registrar for public use.

The exhibition has been researched and written by local authors Jean Weston and Marlene Price.

# Shuttle firm looking to expand at its base

**A BLACK Country firm behind the Stourbridge Shuttle could expand its base in Cradley Heath.**

Parry People Movers are currently in talks with Sandwell Council over upgrading its centre in Overend Road.

John Parry, chairman of the tramway system suppliers, said he welcomed the local authority's support.

The firm designed the Parry People Movers rail cars, which are used on the Stourbridge Shuttle.

The lightweight tram, which links Stourbridge Town and Stourbridge Junction stations, is powered by a rotating flywheel that stores and uses kinetic energy from braking.

Mr Parry said: "We would love to be able to upgrade the centre site. Research and development is very important for us as we are all about the innovation of new products.

"We're very proud of our work and the future of affordable light rail transport. This is a positive step.

"We'd also welcome working with other towns across the West Midlands as part of the Combined Authority."

## Helped

Mr Parry said that other products, which have been designed by the company, have been exported to Africa and have helped developing nations.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said the authority's economic team was in contact with Mr Parry. This follows a visit from Councillor Elring to the firm's base last month.

He said: "I've referred this to (council regeneration and economy chief) Nick Bubalo to see how we might be able to support any future development. They've got their base in Cradley Heath where they have done all their development so far and we're pleased they are looking to remain in the borough. There is the potential for expansion of that site."

Earlier this month, it was revealed that the Stourbridge Shuttle had broken its records for passenger numbers for the sixth successive year. In the year-to-end May 2016, approximately 600,000 journeys were made on the Stourbridge branch line - compared to the 595,000 trips made in the year-to-end May 2015.

The latest figures represent an increase of 27 per cent over the first full year of operation back in 2011.

## Families flee due to 'suspect device'



Specialist police deployed a robot as part of the 'suspect device' operation in Oldswinford

A MAN has been released on bail by police after a 'suspect device' was discovered in a flat in Oldswinford, forcing people to be evacuated from their homes.

A road had to be closed for around 12 hours as the bomb squad was called in to investigate the package found at the address in Danford Close, off Hagley Road.

Police were called on Saturday at 12.42pm - and soon put up a 300ft long cordon along the road.

Specialist explosive ordnance disposal officers arrived with a robot to check the package while homes were evacuated. Officers examined a box containing a suspicious device but it was later found to be non-explosive and the cordon was eventually lifted around 1.30am Sunday.

A 25-year-old Stourbridge man was later arrested in Staffordshire and was being questioned by officers. It is understood that the initial call to police was made by an occupant of the flat.

While the cordon was up, dozens of residents, many elderly, were evacuated from their homes as a precaution. Some sought refuge at the nearby Redhill School where food, drink and a place of rest was offered. The Junction Road school is one of a number locations in the Dudley borough which are earmarked as 'emergency sites'.

Several families were also offered the chance to stay the night at the Copthorne Hotel in Merry Hill before returning to their homes on Sunday.

The closure caused traffic problems in Stourbridge, blocking a main route out of the town centre towards Hagley and the M5.

Residents told of their shock. Inge Gordon, who has lived in the street for 22 years, said: "The police officer came to the door and said we only had minutes to leave. My husband is in a wheelchair so the police had to assist him out."

Jeff Upperdine, 64, who was visiting a relative in the street, added: "This is a really nice area with quiet and friendly people and not somewhere you would expect this to happen."

A police spokesman said: "Specialist EOD officers examined a box containing a suspicious device, but it was found to be non-explosive."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Superheroes meet fans at Merry Hill

CAPED crusader against crime Batman will be meeting youngsters at intu Merry Hill shopping centre on Monday.

Parents can book a meet and greet with the superhero at the lower mall, near River Island, from 11am to 3pm, as the school summer holidays get under way.

The shopping centre in Brierley Hill has also confirmed visits from two more superheroes during the school holidays. Wonder Woman will visit the complex on August 16 and Superman on August 22.

## Council surgeries are postponed

COUNCILLOR surgeries due to be held tomorrow (Friday) for Quarry Bank have been cancelled.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill said the meetings for residents of Dudley Wood and Quarry Bank had been called off due to 'unforeseen circumstances'.

The surgeries are now due to take place next on August 12 at Dudley Wood Community Centre, Pavilion Gardens, from 6pm to 6.45pm, and also at the sheltered housing office by Woodhouse Court, Sheffield Street, Quarry Bank, 7pm to 7.45pm.

## Pensioner is badly injured in accident

AN ELDERLY woman was seriously injured after an accident involving a reversing car in Coseley. The woman, believed to be in her 80s, sustained multiple injuries.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "The woman was conscious and breathing but had sustained multiple serious injuries in the collision." The incident happened on Bourne Street at around 1.10pm on Friday. Anyone with information should call police on 101.

## Hotel is sponsoring volunteer awards again

THE Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill has agreed to be main sponsor again this year for the Dudley Volunteers Awards.

The awards, organised by Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, recognises people who give up their time to help others in the borough.

Closing date for nominations this year is August 22 and nomination forms are available online at <https://dva2016.wordpress.com/nominate/>

## Zumba in the park

A DAY of music and dance takes place in Stourbridge on Saturday to raise money for Cancer Research.

Steps to Beat Cancer will be held at Mary Stevens Park from 10am to 12.30pm including a Zumbathon from 10.35am to 12.05. The activities are held near the tennis courts.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



BORIS is Foreign Secretary. Cripes.

THOSE who forecast that Brexit would mean the UK going to hell in a handcart must be bemused at this week's soaring success of the FTSE index. People are obviously buying and selling something, but what? Hand-carts?

SO farewell, David Cameron. I never expected to write that quite so soon. I met him on only a few occasions, all before the 2010 General Election. In his early months he was wary, suspicious and unsure of himself, like the young Tony Blair. But he gradually relaxed and grew into the job. He tended to get on with ordinary people, even when they disagreed with his politics. I cannot recall him ever looking bored or irritated. I liked him. When Radio 4 announced that Cameron had left the government front bench "for the last time" I wondered how, after the chaos and upheaval of the past three weeks, anyone could be certain of that. Or of anything.



ANYONE else notice the resemblance between Mrs May's husband Philip and Calvin's dad in the cartoon strip Calvin & Hobbes?

NEWS reaches me of a much-valued teacher who, on changing jobs, was asked how she would like her presentation silver mug to be inscribed. "Don't forget my name is Rodgers, with a D," she stressed. Sure enough, the mug arrived, beautifully engraved to "Mrs Rodgers-Withadee."

MEANWHILE, a 68-year-old reader tells me he's fed up with the "lies, xenophobia and low-level racism" that conned the English into voting for Brexit. He declares: "If I was younger I would move to Scotland." And in Scotland, of course, you never get a word of bigotry or a whiff of sectarianism. Except on match days.

I STOPPED buying contact lenses from an online company some years ago but they don't give up. Their latest email sales pitch is headlined: "We can send your lenses across Europe." Sounds like a threat from the Mafia.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Taxi drivers angry over policy on window tints

**ANGRY taxi drivers stormed out of a Dudley Council meeting – accusing the authority of 'crippling the trade' in a row over tinted windows.**

There were angry exchanges as members of the council's Taxis Committee voted to continue a controversial policy over the use of heavily tinted glass.

The policy sets out how dark the windows in taxis should be. It means the majority of drivers whose vehicles have tinted windows deemed too dark will be forced to either stop using these vehicles or replace the windows within three months.

Speaking on behalf of the drivers, including around 30 at the meeting last week, Shaz Saleem from Dudley Taxi Association told councillors: "You are crippling the trade with this policy, a policy that is out-of-date."

### Cost

The council's policy states that private hire and Hackney carriage vehicles must have at least 75 per cent of light passing through the front windscreen, 70 per cent through both front side facing windows, and 40 per cent through other side facing windows.

Mr Saleem said: "With your policy at the moment it will restrict us from buying hi-spec cars, which these days are coming with as standard manufactured tinted windows. It is not by choice, they are coming like that."

By Judith Hawkins

The policy was under review after tests conducted on behalf of the council mistakenly passed some cars with tinted windows last year, that have since failed this year.

Those few vehicles will be the only ones with windows darker than the guidelines allowed to remain in operation.

However this could change when a decision is made on whether to also install CCTV in the taxis, said committee chairman Councillor Richard Body.

The council's rules were also being looked at again following action taken by other authorities in the wake of child sexual abuse scandals involving taxi drivers elsewhere in the country, including Rotherham.

Mr Saleem said: "One thing that separates Dudley from Rotherham is that we have an active association that not only works to protect the drivers, but our customers."

## Inspirational faces at dinner



Dave Heeley with Lisa Potts-Webb at the special dinner

THE University of Wolverhampton welcomed honorary graduates to a dinner to mark the relaunched Chancellor's Hall.

The university welcomed its Chancellor, the Rt Hon Lord Paul of Marylebone, on his first official visit to the renovated hall, as well as some famous honorary graduates.

These include the heroic Lisa Potts-Webb, who 20 years ago bravely stepped into the path of a machete wielding attacker to protect the children at the Blakenhall nursery where she worked.

Also in attendance was fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley, the first blind person to complete seven marathons in seven days on seven different continents back in 2008. In 2011 he was honoured by the university and made a Doctor of letters. "Since then I've been amazed at how much the university has grown, not only nationally but internationally," he said.

Also among honorary graduates were former CEO of Virgin Trains Anthony Collins, co-founder of Poundland David Dodd, snake expert Mark O'Shea, and JLR's Trevor Leeks.

## Race hate crimes are up after Brexit vote

RACIALLY-AGGRAVATED hate crimes reported to police in the Black Country went up three-fold in the days following the UK's decision to leave the EU.

In the three days following the historic vote, between June 17 and June 19, there were 10 incidents reported across the boroughs of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall. During the same period a week earlier, before the EU referendum, there were just three reports.

The figures were uncovered via a Freedom of Information request and come as increased tensions are reported across the country, including the Black Country.

### Harassment

Walsall Councillor Aftab Nawaz said: "My experience is that since the EU referendum there has been quite a high level of fear in the Eastern European communities. They feel a bit in limbo, at the same time threatened. It upsets me to hear about the division in our area. Much of it is a consequence of the language used in Westminster up to the referendum. The campaigners do not realise the impact they are having."

The crimes recorded in the days following the referendum include racially or religiously aggravated common assault, harassment and threats to damage property.

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# Cable explosion causes a power loss for thousands

AROUND 5,000 homes were left without power after a cable exploded under a street in Tipton. A van and wall were also left damaged when the power cable exploded under Park Lane West, on Monday morning.

Fire crews were called and cordoned off a section of the pavement. Western Power Distribution (WPD) are investigating what caused the explosion and will carry out repair work over the next few days.

## Candidate set to challenge leader vote

A BEATEN candidate for the leadership of Sandwell Council has revealed she plans to take both Sandwell Council and the Labour Party to court.

Councillor Yvonne Davies met with a QC in London on Monday to prepare her legal challenge. It follows a vote at the authority which saw her pipped to the post of leader by Steve Eling.

At a first vote for the leadership in May the pair each received 34 votes. When the ballot was re-run, 11 councillors were told they could not take part due to subscription issues and Councillor Eling won 36 votes to 23.

Councillor Davies said: "I'm determined that my rightful success at the ballot on the Friday will be recognised and I will be the leader of Sandwell Council."

Councillor Eling, the Labour Party and Sandwell Council declined to comment.

No injuries were reported. Fire crews had arrived at the scene just after 9.15am.

The explosion damaged a van parked next to the pavement of Park Lane West and to the wall of a home.

The repair work would see WPD crews excavate the ground, cut out the faulty section of cable and replace it with a new one.

They said an investigation into the explosion was underway but suspected it could have been caused by 'third party damage'.

A spokesman said: "The majority of the properties were switched back on within 45 minutes of the explosion and all were within the hour."

"It was caused by a fault in an underground cable. The work should be completed over the next few days."

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We got a call at around 9.10am on Monday to an address on Park Lane West, Tipton Green. There was reports of a drain that had exploded and black smoke was seen in Manor Road."

"We sent two fire engines, one from Tipton and one from Oldbury, totalling eight fire fighters. The explosion had split the cable in two, and at that point we had put up a safety cordon."

"Western Power Distribution were then formulating a plan to repair the damaged cable."

## Youngsters on target after grants



From left, Iris Oliarnyk, William Hall, Councillor Richard Marshall, Jaydon Paddock and Josie Oliarnyk

FIVE of the brightest young sporting stars in Sandwell are set to be the first to receive support grants from a new council fund for talented youths.

Athletic sisters Josie and Iris Oliarnyk, 15 and 14, hockey goalkeeper William Hall, 16, gymnast Jaydon Paddock, 14, and tennis player Elise Dennis, 12, will be supported by the authority's Gifted and Talented fund.

The grant programme will award £25,000 to Sandwell residents who are achieving at an elite level or are on course to.

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure services, said: "Making it to the very top is not easy and everyone who benefits from a Gifted and Talented grant is making a huge commitment."

Josie and Iris, from Oldbury, are among the first to receive grants of up to £500 along with William, who has been selected for invitational development and assessment training with England. Elise is the number one under-12 tennis player in the Midlands and fifth in Great Britain.

Josie is ranked number one in the UK for the 100 metres sprint, and has just had her first call up to represent England. Her sister Iris is targeting the heptathlon, having already gained more points in an under 15 level competition than Jessica Ennis-Hill.

Wednesbury gymnast Jaydon has already represented GB, winning a team gold and an individual fifth place at the European Championships. Young athletes living in Sandwell can apply for grants by visiting [www.sandwell.gov.uk/giftedandtalented](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/giftedandtalented)

## Police dog Sear tackles raid suspect

A POLICE dog bit a suspected burglar who was being chased through gardens after allegedly breaking into a house.

Police were called just before 3am on Monday to reports that two men had broken into a house.

They arrived within five minutes, followed by a police dog unit.

Police dog Sear gave chase and two men, aged 32 and 44, were arrested nearby and taken into custody.

One of the suspects was taken to hospital after being bitten by the dog during the arrest, but was later returned to police.

The burglary happened in Wenlock Road, Perry Barr.

Sergeant Fleur Tedstill, from Birmingham Police, said: "This was a fantastic result with our teams working together to detain the suspects within minutes of the call coming in."

"The pair were found in possession of a large amount of jewellery that we believe had been stolen from the address."

"This was another great example of how valuable our police dogs are in the fight against crime – without the help of Sear these men may have gotten away."

Any witnesses, or anyone who feels they can help with information should call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Cannabis plants are found at bungalow

MORE than 300 cannabis plants with an estimated value of £150,000 were found at a bungalow in Tipton.

The discovery was made by an electrical engineer on Monday around lunchtime, at the property on Bilston Road, before police were notified. More 320 plants were found across four rooms. One of the rooms had a temperature of 42 Celsius (108F).

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Home bit dowdy? Call in the bulldozers

SO from now on, Prime Minister's Questions will be dominated by squabbles between Jeremy and May, with Hammond sitting in the shadows.

With such a Top Gear bench, as somebody once said, what could possibly go wrong?

□ □ □

SUPPOSE your house looked a bit the worse for the passage of time. I know that is unlikely, because you maintain your property diligently, keep the garden immaculate, and scrub your doorstep spotless every morning. But just play with me for a while on this one.

Say your property had been allowed to decay for a good few years, and needed quite a bit of modernisation. Nothing serious, it's still habitable, but now it's 50, maybe 60 years old, there are a fair few jobs that need doing; a new heating system here, a bit of rewiring there, the odd plumbing and damp-proofing job.

Anyway, an expert says you probably need to spend £30,000 on it. Or if you ask nicely, his mate Des, who works in the demolition trade, will knock the house down for a third of that.

Now how many of you would say "That's a good idea, it will save us 20 grand on repairs"? Not many I suspect, because then there would be the small matter of you not having a house at all.

Yet this is basically what Dudley Council is doing, after announcing plans to demolish four tower blocks in the Netherton.

The council says urgent maintenance work will cost £9 million, whereas it would cost just £3 million to flatten them and pay off the people who live in them.

People like 90-year-old Lilly Gough, who has lived in her flat for half a century, and is heartbroken at the prospect of leaving.

Of course, it is hardly the only local authority to adopt this policy. Over the past 20 years, tower-block flattening seems to have become something of a municipal sport. People even hold street parties to get into the mood.

A few years ago Wolverhampton Council pulled down the flats at Graiseley, and later complained of a shortage of one and two bedroom properties in the city.

But back to Netherton, where the council will save £6 million but lose 301 flats. That works out at £19,993 a property. I realise the council is strapped for cash, but it's a safe bet it will cost a lot more to build 200 new homes.

We are supposed to be living through a housing crisis. We're told we need to build 240,000 new homes a year just to stand still.

Which makes knocking down hundreds of homes because they need updating – and I suspect partly because they are unfashionable – seem very short-sighted indeed.



Sheila performing while in her 20s



Sheila, third left, in a tap routine during a senior school production



Sheila aged around seven or eight years old

# Sheila's long career a real dancing feat

A celebrated Wolverhampton tutor tells reporter **JESSICA LABHART** what it takes to have a long career in dance

**SINCE opening her first dance school, in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton at the age of 14, Sheila Groom has gone on to teach hundreds of boys and girls.**

Many of her proteges have gone on to secure their own careers in the industry. But what really makes dance such a worthwhile career?

"Well, it began for me really when I was five years old. I had whooping cough, and the doctor at the time told my parents I should do some exercise to try and soothe it. So I started going to a very small dance school in Wolverhampton, just doing tap, because ballet was a bit too far out my parents' reach financially in those days."

Sheila, now aged 86, added: "When I was around six or seven, I moved schools to be taught by Jack Griffiths and Dorothy May. That was when I found out about Shirley Temple, and I would mimic her both in my dancing and the costumes that my mother would hand-make for me.

## Fees

"At one point, I'd progressed so much in tap that I took the same grade exam as my actual teacher, on the same day! That was when my parents decided it may be time for me to move on.

"Madame Leminski's was a ballet school based at Birmingham New Street when I started taking classes there at 12 years old. I think it's still going, but in Solihull now. I went there every day after school – which was Prestwood Road School in Heath Town, and do a paper round in the morning to pay for my dance fees. In my previous dance schools, I'd developed a bit of a name for myself but at Madame's, I was a nobody. Not only that, but some of the girls that went there had their



Sheila today, aged 86. "Dance is something everyone can do," she says

own chauffeurs and fur coats. I'd come from Bank Street in Park Village – but my mother always made sure I looked just as good as the wealthy girls – it just took a lot of sewing and sequins. My time at Madame's really drove me to work as hard as I could so I could be just as good as the more privileged dancers. I used to save up all my money so I could go to the six week residential session at Maude Wells' school in Forest Gate, London.

"Ms Wells had said she had followed my career since I was an infant and she wanted me to go to her from the age of 12, but we couldn't afford it. So every summer I would go to her classes, to keep learning and developing. I kept going to London in the summer, and stayed at Madame's school until I was 22, whilst running my own school at the same time.

"Running the school was dead easy in those days, in comparison to how it is now. The ma-

jority of the girls were beginners, so you could teach them all the same material at the same time. Now, not only are so many girls and boys coming to me at different standards, but they come with their own expectation of what dancing is, and that doesn't always match what the rigorous training schedule has to be in order for them to pass the proper exams.

"Now, I often ask the students to bring in a piece of music they want to dance to, particularly for their freestyle exams, so I can chop it and change it and create steps that go with it. We didn't really have that kind of freedom in the old days.

"When I was 23, I got married and decided to have a family. Though I was asked to become an official examiner for the national dance board at that time, I declined it because I didn't want to neglect my two young sons or my husband, so I really focussed on my char-

ity work, and got involved in the Newsvenders Benevolent Fund 'Old Ben' as well as the mayor's various charities throughout the years and later, the MS society.

Among Sheila's achievements are the British Empire Medal she was awarded two years ago. But she said: "For me, it's all about the children.

"I've always believed that, whether you make a career out of it or not, dance will set you in good stead for the rest of your life. Just being able to listen and interpret and enjoy music, being able to follow instruction, having the discipline and commitment to attend classes, and aiming to achieve the best you can are skills that everyone still needs, even today.

"Dance is something that everyone can do, but it takes a lot of hard work to do it well, and like anything in life, the amount of effort you put in is translated into the result you get at the end."

## Result

Sheila is a life member of both the Royal Academy of Dance and the International Dance Teachers Association, an Associate Member of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and a Member of the Guild of Professional Teachers of Dance, Movement to Music and Dramatic Arts. She has a Certificate of Excellence from the Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton, a Bronze Award from the Multiple Sclerosis Society for charity work and the Samaritan Award from the Newsvenders Benevolent Fund.

But it has not been without its mishaps, as she explains: "When I was performing at the Grand in the pantomime in the 1940s, a group of lads I used to go ice-skating with decided to come and watch the show. Except, when they arrived, they stole one of the applause boxes from the side of the stage, so whenever I appeared on stage, there was this thunderous applause – which was highly embarrassing!

"On another occasion, I had this ballet costume which was threaded with fairy lights. Whilst I was dancing, the lights fused, and in the confusion I performed a grand jeté (a ballet leap) but in the wrong direction, so I ended up facing the back of the stage."

For more, visit: <http://sheilagroomschoolof-dance.co.uk/>

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# Young people sold out by the older voters

I want to thank the elderly for betraying our children. No wonder young people do not respect you, when you do something like this.

You have no idea what you have done. The stock market has wiped out your pension fund, so if you were considering retiring in the next couple of years forget it, and the pound is breaking records. It is the lowest since 1985. Interest rates will go up. This then could mean inflation will start to rise.

Here is some of the impact on yourselves. I have done some research on your freebies. All these freebies come

from the European Social Economic Fund. Are you aware that we take out more than we put in, which means losing your bus passes. You will lose you cold weather payments, free prescriptions, free TV licence and other freebies. The council cannot afford to fund your freebies.

Another factor I can see – Cornwall voted to leave. Remember the Cod War? Well here comes number two. Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden will not like it if Cornish fishermen are caught fishing in their waters. They will send big nasty frigates to humiliate these

fishermen and send them on their way. When Scotland has its second referendum we will become even smaller. Instead of being a big dot on the world map we will be a little dot that no one will see. There is one bright light. UKIP has got what it wanted. This organisation will be no more.

For me and my family life in Tenerife is far better. At least my kids are accepted over there. The only time I will ever come back if Mount Teide blows her top, or hell freezes over.

**G FLETCHER**  
Dudley

## Welcome to the UK's 'real world'

THE only thing David Cameron gave this country was gay marriage, which the majority of the country were against.

The only reason we had a referendum was to counteract the threat he saw coming from UKIP, not because he wanted to ask the British people their views.

MPs live in a cocoon, away from the world they create. I suggest all MPs spend a month living in the 'little Polands' that they have created in parts of Yorkshire, where doctor's surgeries have to employ interpreters, at a cost of £40 an hour, to deal with this situation. Where houses are occupied by two immigrant families and councils are at breaking point.

The people that MPs hoped would be too dumb to vote have finally had enough. The only party to come out of this with any credibility is UKIP and Nigel Farage.

**C LLOYD**  
Dudley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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*Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.*

## Brexit is no excuse for race hate crimes

ALONG with many others, I voted to leave the EU. My reasons for this were not racist in any way whatsoever and I have never believed that immigration into Britain or, emigration out of Britain, will in any way be affected by whether or not we are part of the European Union.

Personally, I have no problems or concerns with the current levels of migration. I was, therefore, extremely disappointed (though not necessarily surprised) to learn that there has been an increase in race/hate crimes since the result was announced. It was to be expected, after this increase in hate crimes, that both the chief constable and the police and crime commissioner would come up with their mealy-mouthed platitudes of 'we will monitor the situation closely'. The PCC has stated that hate crime figures for this region have remained steady at 'about 10 a day'. I sincerely hope that both of these men do far more than just monitor the situation and take some very positive action to bring any and all perpetrators to justice. Ten cases a day is about 70 cases a week too many.

It is now beholding on all politicians to work together to carry out the expressed wishes of the people.

**C JONES**  
Brierley Hill

## Tighten up control of our borders

THE referendum result looks like a protest vote against the political establishment with immigration being the key factor.

People have always had concerns about how their communities were changing almost overnight but they never were allowed a voice for fear of being branded 'racist'. Consequently many saw the referendum as an opportunity to get their own back and vote to leave the EU.

But will we ever stop the number of people who want to come to Britain? There is talk of an Australian points system when we finally leave the EU, but that won't mean a thing unless we put a seal on our porous borders. Reports suggest migrants are getting here in the backs of lorries, on boats, even somebody who walked through the Channel Tunnel, who remarkably has now been given permission to stay.

**A P CUFF**  
Stourbridge

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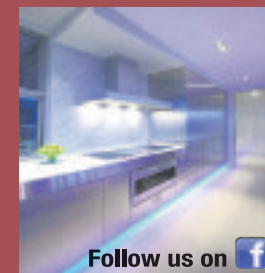
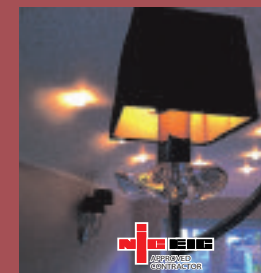
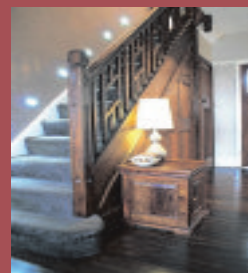
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## Black Country encouraged to get contracts

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 21, 2016

BUSINESSES across the Black Country are being given a helping hand to bid for £13 billion worth of contracts to build High Speed 2, the fast new rail link for London, Birmingham and northern England.

The Black Country Growth Hub – a partnership of public and private sector business leaders – is launching a support programme focussing on supplying parts or services for the £55.7 billion scheme.

Hub member Wayne Langford believes businesses in the region are perfectly positioned to take advantage of HS2's arrival.

He said: "There will be thousands of opportunities within the HS2 supply chain across many business sectors, requiring a range of capabilities, suitable for suppliers of all sizes and generated over a number of years."

### Support

"Along with colleagues, we've developed a programme of support to help businesses understand the procurement process and prepare themselves to be ready for when opportunities materialise."

"The West Midlands has long been home to some of the UK's most advanced engineering and manufacturing firms, so businesses here really stand benefit most from an infrastructure project on the scale of HS2."

## Figures are flying high at Birmingham Airport

PASSENGER numbers hit a new monthly high of 1.1 million at Birmingham Airport last month. June was the airport's 16th consecutive month of record-breaking growth. In total 1,118,452 people were recorded travelling through the airport last month, up by 13.1 per cent on the same month last year. Meanwhile, up to 300 jobs are on their way to the airport after budget airline and holidays group Jet2 unveiled investment.

# RSPCA brace themselves for increase in abandoned pets

## Headteacher never tired of the job



Pupils at Huntingtree Primary School in Halesowen have a tea party to celebrate the retirement of head teacher Stevie Parkes

SHE followed her father into banking but her passion to make a difference to children's lives saw her make a career change for teaching.

Stevie Parkes went on to work at three primary schools in the Dudley borough, having a hand in the education of thousands of pupils.

Now, 40 years after becoming a teacher, Mrs Parkes is retiring and leaving her 25-year post as headteacher at Huntingtree Primary School, Halesowen. Pupils marked the occasion with a tea party.

Mrs Parkes, aged 68, said: "I always wanted to do everything I could to enhance children's lives. I want to develop their skills and provide them with the opportunity to do what they want in the future. For me, it is not about the test results, it is making a difference in young people."

Born and raised in Stourbridge, she attended St Joseph's Catholic School, before a spell in Leicester before returning to the town to attend Stourbridge Girls' High School. She went to work for her father's employer, Mid-

land Bank, in Stourbridge town centre but two years later made a career change, training at Shenstone Teacher Training College, Bromsgrove.

In 1975 she started as a teacher at Gig Mill Infants, Stourbridge. Two years later she moved to Quarry Bank Primary and became deputy head. Then 25 years ago she was appointed headteacher at Huntingtree Primary.

She said: "It's been a wonderful career. I'm only retiring because the time is right, not because I'm tired of the job."

## NEARLY 750 animals were abandoned in the West Midlands last year, figures from the RSPCA reveal.

This includes 511 abandoned in the Black Country and Birmingham areas and 136 in Staffordshire. The other 98 animals were abandoned in Warwickshire, including Coventry.

The country's leading animal charity has released the figures as it enters its tricky summer months when, on average, one animal is dumped every hour somewhere in the UK. In 2015, 2,751 animals were rescued by the animal welfare charity, which saw a peak in admissions in July.

Now, the RSPCA is bracing itself for another summertime influx of abandoned animals. It is thought that one contributing factor is some owners heading off on holiday and not finding anyone to look after their pet.

Simon Osborne, a superintendent at the RSPCA, said: "People often think that Christmas is the time we see the most abandoned animals but it is actually the summer."

### Heartbreaking

"Every day our inspectors face cases where animals have been left abandoned in fields, dumped in boxes, left for dead at the side of roads and even left outside our animal centres."

"It is just heartbreaking. We will never know why these animals are just discarded like rubbish. Whether the novelty of their Christmas present pet has worn off, they don't want the responsibility of finding someone to look after their pet while away on holiday or whether more pets are found dumped because of longer daylight hours, we will never know."

"There is a real peak in the number of abandonments in the summer months and it is animal welfare charities like us at the RSPCA that are left to pick up the pieces. There is a huge strain on our resources at this time of year because of this."

## Not plain trains but automobiles

FOUR-WHEELED transport is set to steal the show at the Severn Valley Railway, as the attraction's popular Classic Vehicle Day returns on Sunday.

Sharing the limelight on this occasion, the railway's heritage locomotives will be taking passengers along the 16-mile span to enjoy the array of classic vehicles of all shapes and sizes, on display at stations along the line.

More than 140 classics will be showcased during the day, with more than 100 being pre-1970 and nearly 40 of those dating from before 1950. The oldest cars on display are expected to be a 1926 Cluley at Kidderminster and a 1924 Rolls-Royce at Arley. For more information call 01562 757900.

Meanwhile, some 100 classic cars will be rolling into the historic grounds of Dudley Castle for the West Midlands Classic Car Club event on Sunday. For the 28th year running, it will be held in the castle courtyard. The vehicles will be on display between 10am until 4pm



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# Keep your donnies off my flag, Bill tells the EU

**A BLACK Country UKIP Euro MP has warned 'interfering EU busybodies' not to show their 'fizzogs' in his European Union office after receiving a warning over displaying the Black Country flag.**

Dudley's Bill Etheridge has proudly flown the flag from the window of his Brussels office for weeks, but on the eve of Black Country Day the MEP was told to take it down for allegedly breaching EU rules.

Mr Etheridge, who is also a Sedgley councillor, said he was 'furious' and branded EU bosses 'disgraceful' for asking him to take the flag down. He has refused to remove the flag and says he will 'continue to fly it with pride.'

A warning letter sent to Mr Etheridge states: "Notices and posters shall not undermine the dignity of Parliament and under no circumstances shall they be offensive or of an inflammatory nature or contradictory to the values on which the Union is founded."

## Security

The letter warns infringement of the rules would lead to such material being removed by ushers or the security services at the Parliament.

Mr Etheridge, who campaigned for Britain to leave the EU, said: "So the EU think a flag identifying the proud cultural heritage of the Black Country may be deemed offensive? What an insult. I find the heavy-handed, constant interference of these EU busybodies offensive and disgraceful. Should there be any attempt to remove the flag they will receive a traditional Black Country response from me. Any lummoxes planning to remove the flag better pin back their lugholes - I don't want their donnies anywhere near it. It is best that they don't show their fizzogs in my office."



MEP Mr Etheridge with Black Country flag outside the window at his Brussels office

## Etheridge wants to lead UKIP

WEST Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge has launched his bid to become Nigel Farage's successor as leader of UKIP.

The Sedgley councillor spoke of his hopes in bringing Britain together by being 'the party for everyone' and making the West Midlands proud.

Speaking at the launch at The Seven Stars pub in Sedgley, Mr Etheridge said he wanted a reduction in 'sin taxes' on alcohol and cigarettes, and to implement a firmer approach on crime.

He said: "I want us to represent the view of the people against the establishment. I want changes and I think people are unhappy with how lenient we are with crime, and by seeing lots of money go away in taxes and then questioning where it has gone."

"I'm not going to be the next Nigel Farage but I do want to be the first Bill Etheridge. It is time to move on. I want us to be more considered and understand the will of the people as the party for everyone."



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# Gotta catch ‘em all in the Pokémon hotspots as Black Country joins craze

MOBILE phone in hand, moving quickly from landmark to landmark and cheering spontaneously in the street.

Millions of people are joining the new phenomenon – Pokémon Go – which is sweeping through the country after its launch last week.

The aim of the game is to capture, battle, and train virtual Pokémon who appear throughout the real world via the player's device's GPS system and camera. It uses the location of the player's phone/device to pin-point where the nearest checkpoints (called PokéStops) and animated Pokémon characters are.

The player can then follow the game on their phone/device, whilst walking in the real world, to try and 'catch 'em all'.

Pokémon have so far appeared in a variety of locations across the region,

though the game has only just been officially released in the UK.

Landmarks throughout the area have unwittingly found themselves included in the online game, which sees real world venues become the 'home' of virtual world animated Pokémon characters for players to collect. And apparently Wolverhampton is a hot-spot. People are taking to the city streets in hope of catching a Charmander, Wigglytuff or Pidgeotto.

## Student

Games Design student at the University of Wolverhampton, Russell Walls, aged 21, was playing the game in Queens Square. He said: "Pokémon Go is basically this app that came out and I think it's a great thing. It's getting everyone who have been stuck in their rooms out and about and meeting new people."

Other hotspots across the region included in the game so far include Morrisons on Blaydon Road, Pendeford. Pokémon Go have confirmed that the chain are the only supermarkets in the UK that contain Pokémon.

Sedgley has become a hive of Pokémon Go activity too. The White Horse, The Grand Junction, The Courthouse, the local Scout hut, Sedgley Library are all Poké centres. Sedgley church gardens also has a registered Poké gym and is home to a range of grass type Pokémon for players to catch.

Dudley Zoo has shown that not only is it the perfect place to spot rare wildlife, it's also the perfect place for Pokémon too. The zoo has been registered as a gym where trainers can battle it out, with various Pokémon being spotted on paths and even in enclosures joining the real world animals.



Pokémon found at Dudley Zoo, where there will be reduced priced admission on Pokémon Fridays

# Cabbies live in fear after latest attack

A TAXI driver was left with a broken nose in the latest assault on a cabbie in the Black Country.

It happened at around 4.30am on Sunday in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, and comes five months after another taxi driver, Mohammed Ahmed, was beaten in Brierley Hill. Taxi drivers are now demanding greater protection.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of the Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said Yassir Mahmood, from Stourbridge, was attacked after he confronted three men who were tampering with a taxi board on the roof of his car. He was left with a broken nose and bruising.

Mr Saleem criticised the police response, claiming no officers attended the scene. Mr Saleem said: "It is a shocking incident. The police rang back and said they would come and see us in two days time. It is just not good enough."

Chief Inspector Simon Inglis, from Dudley Police, said: "I understand why taxi drivers in Dudley are worried but I would reassure them that this is being treated as an isolated incident and a thorough investigation will be carried out."

# Delight at brownfield site plan for homes

MORE than 150 new homes will be built on former industrial land in Smethwick, under new plans.

Proposals for the 11-acre site in Lewisham Road have been submitted to Sandwell Council. The brownfield land has 'been cleared, levelled and remediated' according to applicant Countryside Properties, and is ripe for development.

A design statement submitted as part of the planning package says the 155-home scheme will boost the character of the local area.

The houses will be a mixture of two, three and four-bedrooms and range from two-storey to three-storey.

They have been welcomed by Councillor Preet Gill who said building homes on the site was long overdue.

She said: "It's fantastic news to hear of this application. Housing in that area is in demand. We've had many people coming to us in surgeries saying they want to live there."

## Priorities

"It's also going to be a mixed group of housing, which is really good."

Councillor Gill said any homes which can be built in the borough will be welcomed. She explained: "Building more houses is one of our priorities as a council. It sounds like a great development."

"The amount of people wanting to stay in the area is very high and there's certainly the demand for housing there."

# 'Disastrous' cuts for older people

BOSSES of Age UK Dudley have labelled council funding cuts as 'disastrous'. It comes as council bosses have cut funding to the charity by more than £300,000.

It comes the week after Dudley Council pulled the plug on £250,000 of funding to the charity that runs the Beacon Centre for the Blind. A day centre for dementia sufferers in Coseley is also set to close in September.

Christine Szygowski, chief executive officer at Age UK Dudley, said: "For the charity, who help older people across Dudley borough, this is disastrous and will effect services addressing loneliness and isolation, day opportunities, information and advice and helping people stay safe in their homes."

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We have been forced to review the services we currently commission. We value all the work done by the voluntary sector and recognise it as a key partner."



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# Tenants worried as council plan demolition of homes

**ANGRY residents have hit out at cash-strapped Dudley Council's plans to knock down four high-rise flats in Netherton in a bid to save money.**

Hundreds of people could be forced to move if the plans go ahead, which was being decided at Dudley Council's Cabinet meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Tenants aired their concerns at a public consultation with council officers held at Netherton Arts Centre on Thursday evening.

## Cricket stars ready to hit fans for six

STARS of Worcestershire County Cricket Club's championship winning sides of the 1960s and 1980s are joining forces for a unique evening of cricket memories in aid of county captain Daryl Mitchell's benefit, which is taking place throughout the year.

'The Time of Their Lives' event on July 29 will see Norman Gifford, Roy Booth, Duncan Fearnley, Steve Rhodes and Phil Neale regale the audience with tales from a golden era - including stories behind the successes and dressing room anecdotes.

The entertainment gets under way at the county's iconic New Road ground in Worcester at 8pm. Broadcaster Dave Bradley will undertake the legendary Eamonn Andrews 'This is Your Life' role.

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the night.

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## Wolves fans get value on memorabilia



Steve Plant, of Stourbridge, shows expert David Harper a shirt from 1910

WOLVES fans were united at a special event to value their club memorabilia. Dozens of fans flocked to Molineux to get a price on their possessions at a valuation day.

Expert David Harper, a regular on the BBC's Bargain Hunt, looked over the items. He said: "I suppose I'm better known for evaluating general antiques, but I'm in Wolverhampton to talk about football and I've met the most passionate people here who really love Wolves - I just couldn't believe it."

"My job is to give the stories, explain where these objects are from and put the valuation on them and that's been dead easy here because they've been teaching me all the history and all the tales. We've found some cracking objects."

Kevin Poole, aged 49, from Upper Gornal, took along his collection of programmes dating back to the 1940s. He said: "I was left these by my uncle who I think must have attended all of these games. It's such a shame to leave them in the attic when they mean so much to the fans and the club."

"That's why I've brought them down. Altogether, the professional valuator said they could fetch up to £600."

The event was also attended by some famous Wolves faces, including record goalscorer Steve Bull. He said: "I think it's important for children, fans and people of Wolverhampton to find out more about how the club started. I'm still learning and I'm in my 50s."

## Crash victim riding a stolen motorcycle

A 17-year-old who had been disqualified from driving died after crashing a stolen motorbike into a parked car.

An inquest heard that Brandon Holt lost control of the Yamaha after going over a speed bump on Wrens Nest Road in Dudley just after 6.10am on Sunday, May 29. The teenager, who did not steal the motorbike himself, had cocaine in his system and was not wearing any safety gear.

He had also been disqualified from driving in March 2015, Black Country Coroner's Court was told.

He had crashed into a stationary Fiat Punto at more than 20mph forcing the vehicle up on to the kerb. Collision investigator Pc Justin Williams said he was unable to calculate how fast Brandon was travelling on the 30mph road before hitting the speed bump.

The teenager, of Hillside Road, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham but died later that day. A pathologist confirmed cause of death as abdominal injuries.

The court heard the bike had been stolen taken from a Brierley Hill after it got stuck. The hapless moggy lost its nerve after it got out of a window of a flat on Foxdale Drive on Friday evening but was unable to get back in or make its own way down.

Two crews from Brierley Hill attended around 7pm. The first vehicle's ladders were not long enough prompting a call out for the main engine.

## Moggy is rescued from block of flats

FIREFIGHTERS were needed to rescue a cat in Brierley Hill after it got stuck. The hapless moggy lost its nerve after it got out of a window of a flat on Foxdale Drive on Friday evening but was unable to get back in or make its own way down.

Two crews from Brierley Hill attended around 7pm. The first vehicle's ladders were not long enough prompting a call out for the main engine.



# Two MPs get senior posts in Government

KINVER'S MP Gavin Williamson was appointed the Government's chief whip when new Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May embarked on a Cabinet reshuffle during her first full day in power.

The South Staffordshire MP, who has been an MP since 2010 and was previously David Cameron's Parliamentary private secretary, will take charge of party discipline.

He described the role as 'not bad' as he left Downing Street after accepting his appointment from the Prime Minister. He will now take up residence at 12 Downing Street.

Mr Williamson, who played a major role behind the scenes in Mrs May's rise to power as her campaign manager, replaced outgoing chief whip Mark Harper.

His immediate task will be keeping control of MPs coming to terms with Mrs May's new-look Cabinet, a move considered vital considering the Tories' slender majority in the House of Commons.

Stourbridge MP Margot James has been handed a ministerial appointment in the new Government.



Margot James – major business role



New chief whip Gavin Williamson

## MP hears about school plans

SOUTH STAFFS MP Gavin Williamson visited Kinver High School to hear about their refurbishment plans.

The Conservative MP, who has just been appointed Government chief whip (see above), met with headteacher Chris Rogers and pupils who told him about plans for a new teaching block.

Mr Williamson had been heavily involved in the campaign for money from the Condition Improvement Fund to be granted to the school.

It follows the Government's announcement of £435 million in funding for 1,276 projects at 1,030 academies and sixth-form colleges.

Mr Williamson also heard about the Invictus Education Trust which Kinver High School has become part of.

The MP said: "I was delighted to hear about exciting new building plans. Our pupils in South Staffordshire deserve the best start in life and this funding will go some way to helping with this."

### Business

Ms James was one of the first MPs to back Theresa May's leadership bid for the Conservative Party in the wake of Mr Cameron announcing his resignation. In the week of the EU referendum, Mrs May travelled to Stourbridge for a debate hosted by Ms James.

Ms James has been appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

She said: "I will do all I can to support businesses and employees in my new role."

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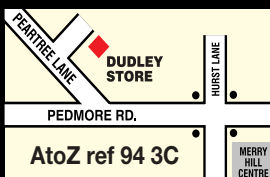
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The older the frame and the better the quality, the more you will have to pay. Condition is all-important.

The maker's name on the frame will also affect the price and, having mentioned condition, we sold a beautiful silver Liberty Art Nouveau frame with some damage for £400 at auction a while back.

There are some lovely Victorian and Edwardian frames around in a variety of styles and it's actually quite heart-warming to think your own relatives are now gracing frames that once hosted images from long ago.

Picture frames were, of course, around long before the advent of photography – they were apparently 'invented' by the ancient Egyptians – and we know that wooden frames were widely used for paintings in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Very elaborately decorated picture frames were made for use in churches in the 14th and 15th centuries and by the 16th and 17th centuries framed works of art were very collectable – and the rich were having their portraits painted.

Photography entered the scene

during the 1800s and naturally these new images needed to be properly mounted and displayed – this marked the beginning of mass-produced frame-making and you can still find frames dating back to this era today.

The prices are good for the more generally available frames not produced by the likes of Liberty, you can easily buy a very nice Victorian brass frame for under £20 and gilded and silver frames for between £30 and £40.

A stylish Arts and Crafts wood and gilt frame might set you back £30 or so and some lovely carved wooden ones can be bought for between £10 and £30.

The price really is dependent on age, size and condition and whether the frame comes complete with its original glass, which again should not be cracked or chipped.

You will also have to bear in mind that your pictures might well need a new mount for the frame and possibly should be taken to a professional picture-framer if you want a perfect finish.

So do have a look around to find out what's available – and see who you can frame!

Perry and Phillips Auctioneers hold sales of antiques and collectables on the first Tuesday of each month. Valuation days, for sale items only, are held every Wednesday at the Mill Street saleroom, in Low Town, Bridgnorth, from 10am until 4pm.

# Many hours lost keeping pace with digital era



In a whirl... There's an app for that

THE digital revolution is so tiring! Facebook, Instagram, You Tube, blogs and apps eat up time and effort in equal dose.

A business today needs to be seen and accessible on phones and tablets, content changing daily and new visual delights for a generation to 'Like' or comment upon!

There are apps that can become the personal shopper in my pocket, Mallzee and Handpicked Personal Shopper suggesting my next garment purchase for any occasion, my favourite shops offering discounts on the things I like most, based on my previous purchases and the information I agree to give them of course. Amazon and Ebay offering everything I am looking for at an incredible price. Wheretoget allows you to find the clothing you have seen in a picture on the internet and to give you time to do all this there is even an app to suggest recipes for dinner and add all the items required to a shopping basket, or alternatively order online on your phone from the local takeaway.

Top designers offer an insight into their Fashion Houses and personal lives with their blogs, an industry that now employs people to

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



work solely on internet content and is able to advertise directly into the homes and onto the phones of its target consumer.

Several of my ex-students are working in the fashion industry as bloggers, a full time and all-consuming lifestyle, the more followers they have the more chance of links and adverts and therefore an income, it is taken incredibly seriously.

They take interesting and creative photos and spend hours researching the trends and producing short films, it is completely fascinating and I find myself losing hours searching through it.

My blog, I must admit is a little half-hearted in comparison, the real work getting in the way of photos, videos and words.

Then there is the necessary website, a fantastic marketing tool and information page,

we would be amazed if a business could not be accessed or contacted via this media and frankly would not give them a second thought but ensuring the content is up to date, easy to navigate and changed regularly is a time consuming task.

How many of us have watched a You Tube video I wonder? You can literally watch how to do just about everything, hear experts talk knowledgeably, learn new skills, watch the new internet sensations or scroll through fantastic pictures for inspiration on Pinterest.

I am trying to embrace this momentous development in our lives but by the time I have added to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and LinkedIn and the list goes on, as do the status updates and downloads, I've misplaced days, missed chatting to my friends and colleagues and the interaction with real people and experiences is lost. Oh the times they are a changing!

For more details visit [www.jflexclusive.com](http://www.jflexclusive.com) and [www.jf garmentsolutions.co.uk](http://www.jf garmentsolutions.co.uk)

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Worried about the effect of Brexit on your shopping budget? Get a head start by taking some tips from Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin in the third series of Eat Well For Less?

# Beating the Brexit blues with clever food shopping



A new book accompanies the series

**THE forecast for the average Brexit shopping bill makes for a gloomy – and conflicting – read.**

In the half-empty camp, experts are predicting a three per cent annual rise to an average family's shopping bill. That's an additional £120 a year.

Meanwhile, those with their glasses half-full argue a hike in prices at the big chains could be good news for consumers, who – miffed at the rising prices – will simply start shopping at budget retailers instead.

However things play out in the wider political sphere, taking control of your shopping bill now, by making some simple changes here and there, can pay dividends by the time you arrive at the checkout.

The average UK household apparently spends £81.40 a week on food, with many of us sucked into supermarket special buys, rigidly sticking with premium brands rather than trying cheaper alternatives, relying on convenience instead of cooking from scratch, and heading down the aisles without a plan of what we actually need.

Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin are back on our screens to shake up our food-spending habits with a third series of Eat Well For Less?

As the title suggests, once again, the two greengrocers will guide more families on

By Keeley Bolger

lowering their food bills, without sacrificing the taste or enjoyment of their meals.

There's also plenty of tips in the accompanying book, Eat Well For Less by Jo Scarratt-Jones (BBC Books, £14.99), to slice your supermarket bill.

### MOT YOUR SPENDING HABITS

Look at your spending habits and try to identify where you are going wrong. Often just seeing the figures in front of you is enough to make you realise you need to rethink the way you shop.

Eating well for less is all about changing bad habits for new, healthier ones; your body and wallet will benefit. Setting a budget doesn't have to mean the end to all luxuries, but do you really need them every day?

### KEEP IT FRESH

Storing your food properly means you can keep it in optimum condition for longer, meaning you won't throw away as much limp lettuce, dubious-smelling dairy or grey-looking meat, which is like throwing cash in the bin.

### GET COOKING

Ditch the expensive ready meals and pre-prepared ingredients and get back to basics. Cooking from scratch is not just a cheaper way to eat, but it's healthier too.

Take breakfast and even lunch to work and stop buying expensive coffees on the way. A working couple could spend £71.10 a week on takeaway lunches, coffee and snacks, which works out at an eye-watering £4,000 a year between them both.

### PROPER PLANNING

Plan your weekly meals. Write a shopping list only for what you need to buy, and try to make that shop the only one, rather than nipping out for food here and there across the week. Don't get sidetracked by tempting offers or treats when you're going round the shops. Stick to the list and you'll stick to your budget.

### MAKE SMART FOOD SWAPS

Think about your ingredients when you're out shopping; compare prices, try own-brand products, swap out fresh for frozen or tinned. You'll be amazed at how much prices can vary.

### LOVE YOUR LEFTOVERS

At the end of each meal, stop before you start clearing up and scraping those plates into the bin. Is there anything that could be served up again for lunch or dinner, or used to bulk out another meal? Think about what you have left and how you can reuse it. It can also cut your preparation time for another meal.

Eat Well For Less? is on BBC One on Wednesdays at 8pm



# Builders have got Connor's fundraising all wrapped up

KIND-HEARTED builders at a Dudley housing development banded themselves up for a day to raise money in aid of a co-worker's baby boy.

Connor Davies, the 15-month-old son of forklift truck driver Steve Davies, was born with a heart condition and has had several operations at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Staff at the David Wilson Homes' Bagderidge Village development decided to get involved and raise more than £2,500 for the hospital.

Mr Davies and his colleagues took part in its Big Bandage event whilst at work on July 8, wrapping themselves – and even Steve's forklift – in bandages.

Mr Davies, aged 49, of Wolverhampton, said: "I'm overwhelmed by the support from my colleagues and my family."

"I would like to thank them, particularly site manager Wayne Berry, and everyone else who's contributed their time and money to the charity."

More than 200 bandages were donated by local medical supply companies and they were used to create a huge bandage to wrap round Steve's forklift for the day.

Mr Berry, site manager for David Wilson Homes Mercia, said: "When we heard what Steve was doing for little Connor, we were all very moved, and decided to help out."

"It's been a fun way to raise money for a good cause, and we've all had a good laugh onsite getting mummified."

Anyone wanting to donate money to support the hospital's charity can do so by visiting [www.bch.org.uk](http://www.bch.org.uk) website.



Forklift driver Steve Davies, with his son Connor and daughter Jessica, receives £2,500 from work colleagues

# NHS boss on the run to help patients

AN NHS boss will run past all of the big Black Country hospitals to raise funds to help patients.

Terry Whalley, the Black Country Alliance's (BCA) programme director, will run 21 miles to raise money for dementia care at the three trusts that form the Black Country Alliance in Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and West Birmingham. He will run from Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley to Sandwell General in West Bromwich before making his way to Walsall Manor Hospital. He will then keep on running to City Hospital in Birmingham via the site of the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Smethwick. Mr Whalley will complete the challenge on August 13.

He said: "I have never run this far before but I am training hard and I'm determined to run the full distance, if slightly nervous."

"As well as raising money through sponsorship towards dementia care I also want to raise awareness of the Black Country Alliance."

For more information call Terry on 0121 507 5915, 07773 624205 or email [terry.whalley@nhs.net](mailto:terry.whalley@nhs.net).

# Secondary schools' standards 'too low'

**STANDARDS of secondary school education in the Black Country are 'unacceptably low' according to the regional head of school inspectors Ofsted.**

Lorna Fitzjohn, head of Ofsted in the West Midlands, has written an open letter to four councils in the region as well as academy trusts and MPs.

Ms Fitzjohn said that the achievements of pupils by the time they reached the age of 16 were 'poor' in comparison to other regions in the UK.

Ms Fitzjohn also said there is a 'wide' gap between GCSE achievements of disadvantaged pupils and their better-off counterparts.

She said secondary schools were regularly failing to build on the success of pupils in primary schools with 'much of their progress going to waste'.

The watchdog said that 76 schools in the Black Country, 53 (or 70 per cent), were academies and the rest local authority-maintained. However, Ms Fitzjohn said the concerns were 'prevalent in both types of schools'.

By Jessica Labhart

discussed our priorities for getting standards in the secondary sector back on track with both Ofsted and the Department for Education.

"We have also brought in a new schools leadership team to the authority who have been working very closely in partnership with our schools in the School Improvement Alliance."

Ms Fitzjohn has now called for urgent action to take place to address the problems.

Julien Kramer, Wolverhampton's director of education, said: "We accept that still more needs to be done to improve standards still further and we are rising to the challenge."

Councillor Rose Burley, from Walsall's education services said: "We are confident that our existing schools improvement programme will deliver sustainable improvements."

Councillor Simon Hackett, of Sandwell's children's services, said: "We are working very closely with all our secondary schools."

## Worst

She said: "Of 151 local authorities, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton are among the worst 25 in England for GCSE attainment."

"Dudley fares little better and is among the worst 35 local authorities in the country for secondary school attainment."

Councillor Ian Cooper, of Dudley's children's services, said: "We are already focussing on areas in need of improvement and have

# Ready, steady, bake for hospice fundraiser

KEEN bakers are invited to whip up their most show-stopping creations for a lively afternoon of sweet treats and sunshine at the 'Great Sanderson Court Bake Off'.

The baking competition is being held at McCarthy and Stone's Sanderson Court development in Hagley on Saturday in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

All entries will be sampled and adjudicated by a panel of judges including Chairman of Bromsgrove Council, Councillor Helen Jones; General Manager at the Lytleton Arms, Chris Cunningham; and Laura Millard from the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Guests are welcome to attend between noon and 4pm, with judging to take place at 1pm.

Bakers will be charged £2 for entry and can also try their luck in the raffle, which will include prizes such as a meal for two at the Lytleton Arms, with all proceeds donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

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# 16 Sedgley are guild quiz champions

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 21, 2016

West Mids Federation

THE West Midlands Federation celebrated the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth with an afternoon tea party for their Guild members at Wollaston Village Hall.

The entertainment was provided by 'The Black Country Nightingale' vocalist Beryl Briscoe who gave a performance of her favourite songs from popular shows before tea was served. The choice of songs was excellent and enjoyed by everyone.

Tea was then served with a wide variety of sandwiches, cakes and individual trifles which were all served by the Federation Committee and their helpers.

The afternoon was completed with another performance by Beryl who sang many popular songs from the war years with everyone joining in.

The vote of thanks was given by Betty Davies. Chairman Margaret Tew thanked everyone for coming and hoped that they had enjoyed the afternoon. A vote of thanks was given to the committee for all their hard work and voted the afternoon a huge success.

The annual Inter-guild quiz was held at Stourbridge Football and Social Club. Twelve teams consisting of four guild members per team took part.

Sedgley E Guild were first with 95 points with Bewdley second with 81, followed by Wordsley M on 80. The shield was presented to Sedgley by Mrs Tew. Prizes were awarded to first and second team members.

# Black Country wit and poetry enjoyed



Speakers's secretary Pauline Handley, speaker David Bartley and Josey Hunt Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 33 members to The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley to enjoy their excellent three-course lunch and welcome back David Bartley with his Black Country poems and humour.

He had everyone laughing from beginning to end, with lots of audience participation, choosing one lady in particular by the name of Dinky White to help with his stories. He was asked to come back yet again at an early opportunity.

Unfortunately the normal coffee morning at the home of Ann & Mike Rogers on the second Friday in August has had to be cancelled due to roadworks and driveway closures at their home. This was rescheduled for Wednesday November 23. The next luncheon will be on Friday, September 16 one week later than normal – and the speaker will be Nikki Southall on Clarins skincare. By special request Mark Newbold is returning to talk about The Falklands Re-visited on October 14.

Visitors are most welcome and can attend three times before deciding to join. For further information call the secretary on 01902 372984 or contact the chairman at maryjones30@sky.com

# Insight into vintage jewellery

THE June meeting was opened with a welcome by chairman Julie Willetts. This was followed by Secretary Sue Ward, who read thank you letters from Margaret Tew and Oldswinford Guild, for their invitations to the open evening.

It was agreed by all who attended that the annual dinner had been a great

## Wollaston E TWG

success, and thanks went to organiser Sue Ward.

Regarding the bowls section, the club has almost completed the first round of competition, and it was nice that a few members represented the club, together with the Sons of Rest, at a

Mary Stevens Park fun day. The speaker cancelled, but was replaced by two ladies from Granddad's Attic who gave an insight into vintage jewellery, etc, under the title of An Evening of Nostalgia.

The competition was won by Julie Willetts and Elizabeth Grove and the raffle by Valerie Harper and Marion Clarke.

# Zoo offers youngsters a real wild time



Dudley Zoo is bringing back its really wild summer schools by popular demand, between August 6 and 26

ANIMAL-MAD youngsters are being given the chance to enrol for a summer school with a difference.

Dudley Zoo is running a packed programme of 'really wild summer schools' due to popular demand.

Children aged eight to 11 can sign up to Go Wild! Week while Zooversity is on offer for 12 to 15 year-olds.

Go Wild! Week will run from August 6 to August 12 and from August 15 to August 19, while Zooversity will take place from August 22 to 26.

Dudley Zoo conservation officer Chris Leeson, said: "We're really excited to be bringing back the Summer

Schools again this year. We've got lots of activities planned for the school sessions."

These include critter hunts, animal feeding and abode building, pond dipping, bug hunts, horrible history and an I'm A Celebrity session for the older group.

## Experience

"It promises to be a great experience for animal-mad youngsters, so sign up soon, as places are limited," he said.

Places at the summer schools cost £130 per child for the five-day week. Call (01384) 215313.

The zoo is also offering anyone who ever wondered what happens after the site closes a twilight trail, so visitors can see what happens as keepers settle the animals down for the night. The event tomorrow night (Friday), will include a behind-the-scenes guided tour.

Visitors will be able to hear about the zoo's vital conservation work as they shadow keepers during their lock-up duties, preparing supper for the animals and getting them ready for night. The tour lasts approximately two hours, starting at 5.45 pm, and ends with a barbecue in the castle courtyard. Places need to be booked.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Former midwife's smile reborn

*'I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth'*

Former Dudley community midwife Vicki Ball, left, is full of smiles after getting new teeth and an implant solution to a long-standing stabilisation problem. 'I love my new teeth,' she says



**M**EEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been

her favourite attribute. "I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her first tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't

have done more to save her own teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable.

## Researching options

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crispy fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicki says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my whole life

around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable." A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDIP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDIP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial

features. "From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth.

## Such a relief

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.

Steven says: "Mrs Ball needed dentures that would offer proper support to her facial features.

"These days the term 'facelift' dentures is banded about. The claim is spurious, but with the correct setting of teeth, the effect is to lift the facial structures in the same way natural healthy gums and teeth support tissues and muscles. I'm very please to have been part of giving a new birth the Vicki's smile."

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# Firm helps to kit out young players

FOOTBALL crazy workers at a kitchen company based in Lye hope that the junior and girls teams at Stourbridge FC will be on the ball this season after announcing a new sponsorship deal.

Avanti Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms, located in Hayes Lane, is sponsoring the junior and girls Glassboys teams and providing them with new kits and training outfits.

Managing Director Lee Capewell said all the factory workers were football fans and when England lost to Iceland at the European

Championship they decided to try to restore some pride in the game by investing in a local team's youth section.

Stourbridge FC chairman Andy Pountney said: "Having Avanti on board to offer this kind of support will be a real boost for the youngsters who are very eager to get the new season under way and will look great in their new gear – we thank them very much for their support."

All the teams will be wearing the kits from the start of the season next month.

# Timetable changes for bus services

**BUS timetable changes in the Black Country are coming into place next week – with three services being dropped.**

National Express has revealed updated service timetables which will begin on Sunday.

The 141, from Birmingham to Merry Hill, the 38, from Walsall to Darlaston, 26, from Wolverhampton to Willenhall, and the X56, from Birmingham to Brownhills, will cease.

But a new service, the X10 from Merry Hill to Birmingham, will replace the 141 and other services will be extended.

A new 37 service will replace the 40 between Walsall and Wolverhampton, while the 39 will have its timetable changed to serve Walsall Manor Hospital.

The 89 service will change to serve Bentley Bridge Retail Park, providing direct links from Wolverhampton, Walsall and Bloxwich.

The 75 service from Wednesbury to Birmingham will be extended to cover Darlaston, providing cover for the dropped 38 service.

The new X10 service will run every 20 minutes on a weekday and during Saturday daytime.

## Report by Alex Ross

**Blackheath**

Other changes include more buses being introduced for the 4 service from Blackheath to Walsall and the 41 service from Willenhall to Walsall.

More buses will also be added to the X51 Walsall to Birmingham service.

National Express ran a consultation ahead of the changes.

On dropping the 28 service, the bus operator said: "We had around 20 responses on this proposal. "Understandably most of these didn't want the 28 to change.

"We did look at the pro-

posals again but decided that the low usage of the 28 meant that the original proposal could not be changed."

And on replacing the 141 service with the X10, the company said: "Most people were in favour of changing the service to a faster limited stop service.

"We will therefore reduce the number of stops as proposed."

The bus company also asked people in the consultation if they wanted the 10 and 10A service to serve Hatherton Road in Walsall town centre and miss the stop on Lichfield Street.

But the company said: "Very few people expressed a view on this and of those that did the response was mixed. At this stage we've decided not to change the route."

"The timetable will change to improve time-keeping during afternoon peak hours."

The changes come two months after previous amendments by the company to its timetables.

National Express spokesman Ali Bell said: "We review the services we operate to make sure we are providing the best possible service for our customers."

To see the full changes to bus services visit nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/information

# Property prices fall after the Brexit vote

THE price of property coming to the market in England and Wales has fallen 0.9 per cent – £2,647 – according to Rightmove with the West Midlands seeing an even bigger fall of 1.6 per cent.

But the average house price at £205,951 is up 2.9 per cent from the July 2015 average of £200,129.

Figures from Rightmove show that buyer demand in the two weeks since the EU referendum result is consistent with 2014 although down on 2015 – which benefited substantially from a post-General Election boost.

Most agents report market momentum continuing due to shortage of suitable property for sale, buyers fearful of missing out on scarce choice and affordability and availability of low mortgage rates.



Avanti Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms managing director Lee Capewell with players Edward Solly and Kian Bate

# Top Church is to get £200k repairs

ONE of Dudley's oldest churches, the landmark Top Church, has been given a £200,000 grant for vital repair works.

Church of St Thomas on Vicar Street has received the grant for £189,000 through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Grants for Places of Worship. It follows another raft of funding of £20,000 received by the church in June.

The latest funding will pay for repairs to windows and access ladders and walkways to the roof of the buildings for maintenance.

New glazing will also be installed to the main entrance through the west doors and cast iron window frames and drainage will be repaired.

It is hoped the funding will increase visitor numbers and improve the appeal and understanding of the building for the community.

Canon Andrew Wickens said: "Top Church is one of Dudley town's most beautiful and treasured places. "We want to hear fresh ideas about its future, both as a place of worship and as a community space."

## Happy 5th Anniversary

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*Monish and the Team X*

**DEMI HOWEN - HEAD NURSE**

I began my journey at Companion Care in 2011, starting as work experience, before progressing to support staff and eventually securing a placement to begin my Veterinary Nursing career. Five years on and I am the head nurse of the two clinics.

Over the years we have progressed as a clinic but maintained our ethos of providing excellent patient care at affordable prices. We have invested heavily in new equipment to provide safer general anaesthetic, extensive patient monitoring and quicker recoveries, as well as participating in specialist surgery such as orthopaedics. We are a fully registered training practice for student nurses and support staff, helping pave the way for the next generation in veterinary care.

I feel very privileged to have begun my career here and highly satisfied to look back on my progression. I work with such a talented and committed team with an amazingly loyal client base and look forward to many more successful years at Companion Care.

**LIZ ROBERTS - PRACTICE MANAGER**

I started working at Companion Care in 2013 as a receptionist, since then I have progressed to the role of Practice Manager at both this branch and the Merry Hill branch. I am incredibly proud and grateful of the role I have forged for myself.

I generally oversee the running of the practice, as well as reception and general nursing duties, but a large part of my job is submitting all the insurance claims for owners. Insurance claims take up a lot of time, but we pride ourselves on getting them processed quickly, without charging any completion or processing fees.

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There's plenty of ways to keep children entertained



A trip to the cinema is always a favourite – the new Disney film Finding Dory is out next week

# Keeping it fun for the whole summer holidays

By Sam Wylie-Harris

**SUMMER'S here! Not that you'd necessarily know it, since, in typical British style, it's sunny one minute, pouring with rain the next.**

But don't worry too much; while the unpredictable weather may stop us from heading to the great outdoors, there's plenty to keep the kids entertained under cover.

Here are 30 things to keep kids (and grown-ups!) entertained when the showers strike over the school holidays...

1. Take them trampolining – with all that bouncing around, the kids can burn off energy while having a good time.

2. Plan a trip to the movies – Finding Dory is released on July 29 at cinemas nationwide, and promises to be even bigger than Finding Nemo!

3. Colour yourselves calm by giving them a colouring book and lots of lovely bright crayons to keep them amused (parents can benefit from the stress-busting benefits of colouring-in too).

4. Take them on a big day out. There are plenty of places to visit in Shropshire – or venture further afield for a day in one of the big cities.

5. Banish boredom with a board game. They're making a comeback, and who can resist a game of Monopoly?

6. It's a bake-off! Throw a cupcake party and get the kids to make cupcakes, they'll love spooning the icing from the mixing bowl.

7. Don't be puzzled thinking of things to do; get that 150-piece jigsaw out and you'll (hopefully) have peace and quiet for hours.

8. Make some ice lollies; just get the mould and wooden sticks and go wild with flavours.

9. Head for the park and take a picnic to make sure everyone gets a dose of fresh air.

10. Have an arty afternoon and take them to a gallery, which may inspire a culture vulture in the family.

11. A double decker bus tour is the best way to explore new places in the rain.

12. There's nothing like combining some healthy fear and fun; why not head to your nearest theme park and seek out the under-cover attractions, minus the crowds?

13. Discover the Making Of Harry Potter at the Warner Bros Studio Tour ([www.wbstudiotour.co.uk](http://www.wbstudiotour.co.uk)).

14. Make a Superhero cape! It's easier than you think – all you need is a large T-shirt, scissors, felt and fabric glue. Visit [www.netmums.com](http://www.netmums.com) to find out how.

15. Get creative with pasta shells and glue and challenge the kids to a pasta canvas contest (you could promise spaghetti Bolognese for lunch as a reward).

16. Play hide 'n' seek. Traditional games never go out of fashion, and you'll be amazed how many nooks and crannies kids can hide in at home.

17. Hunker down with a good book – children love to be read to, plus it will improve their development and instil a love of reading. Win-win.



Paint a watercolour – the materials are cheap and you could discover your child has a hidden ability for creating masterpieces



Get outdoors, whatever the weather, and enjoy the fresh air



Splashing about in the swimming pool is great fun

18. Create a dressing-up box filled with clothes you no longer wear, girls and boys alike love dressing up. They could put on little plays for you too.

19. Host your own red carpet party – invite their friends over to watch a DVD and then get them to write a film review.

20. Splash about at the swimming pool.

21. A 24-lane bowling alley will keep them stimulated, and you can treat them to a milkshake afterwards.

22. If they love slides, swings and climbing frames, take them to an indoor play area.

23. Use the rubbish weather as an excuse for the children to tidy their rooms and get rid of loads of waste. You never know – make it a competition and they might love it!

24. Build a fortress. It's really easy: take the cushions off the sofa, hang sheets across the furniture and camp out.

25. Organise an indoor treasure hunt... trinkets, coins and sweets are all worth hunting down.

26. Escape to a cave! There's so much mystery when you enter a labyrinth of dark mysterious passageways.

27. Sea it to believe it... head to an aquarium and enjoy magnificent marine displays.

28. Paint a picture. Pretty watercolour paints, a few brushes and a little imagination are all it takes.

29. Go outside to the greenhouse, and plant some seeds without getting wet!

30. Download an app for the kids to play on your tablet or smartphone.

Here are 47 of the best which are cheap or free: [www.pcadvisor.co.uk/test-centre/google-android/best-kids-apps-2016-best-apps-for-children-ipad-iphone-android-may-3464905/](http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/test-centre/google-android/best-kids-apps-2016-best-apps-for-children-ipad-iphone-android-may-3464905/)

## Avoiding the pitfalls of buying second hand

Advertisement feature

**Is it really worth buying second hand mobility products? CERI DIXON from specialist supplier Ableworld has the following advice.**

OFTEN buying second hand isn't saving you money in either the short or long term. As always we all need to be careful with our money – but is second hand worth it?

If you do want to purchase an item second hand from a friend or even a dealer please be aware of the common pitfalls and dangers to look out for, such as:

- Is it Safe? If the product is electrical or battery operated we would suggest you get the product tested by a qualified engineer. Also check that the equipment is provided with the instructions.

- Is it suitable? Many customers have specific needs when shopping for a mobility product and although the price of a second-hand item may be appealing, please remember to check that the product is what you actually need as it may cause you more harm than good.

- Think of the extra costs? Please remember with many mobility products there may be ongoing costs if the product wasn't very well cared for by the previous owner. Consider the cost of parts and labour that may be required to maintain your second-hand product.

### Mobility Scooters and Powerchairs

These are commonly bought second-hand and there are many dealers of these around. Please make sure you feel confident that the product you are buying is suitable and is in good working order. Definitely ask for an engineer's report with a battery test printout. Request the instruction leaflet and any warranty/guarantee that you have been promised in writing.

If you are "trading-in" please ensure the price you pay for your new scooter hasn't been inflated, and that you are getting a fair price for your old scooter. Most scooter models are available from many dealers so try and compare the price if you can.

### Riser Recliner Chairs

The main issue with purchasing these second hand is the issue of health. Ensure the chair has been chemically treated to prevent any infectious bacteria being transferred. Ask your dealer for written confirmation that it has been suitably cleaned, for your peace of mind.

We would encourage you to think about any mobility purchase before going ahead and if possible discuss it with a friend or family member first. If possible try to compare the price you are offered to make sure you are getting the best deal.

Ableworld has reduced many items in its Summer Sale so you could get a brand new scooter or riser recliner for as little as £399, as well as many other offers in store or online.

We do also have finance options available if you want to spread the cost, please speak to our store staff for more details.

If you would like any advice or further assistance please contact your nearest Ableworld store or visit our website [www.ableworld.co.uk](http://www.ableworld.co.uk)

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## Brits 'try six diets' before losing weight or giving up

IT'S a well-used phrase: diets don't work! At least, not in the long-run, with extreme eating plans just setting us up for years of yo-yoing and often even greater weight gain.

But many of us still can't resist the urge of a quick-fix, with the average Brit trying six different diets or eating plans before either reaching their weight-loss goals or giving up entirely, according to a new survey by online pharmaceutical company [www.MedExpress.co.uk](http://www.MedExpress.co.uk), which polled 2,156 UK adults.

In addition, 81 per cent who'd tried diets said they hadn't been successful, and 72 per cent confessed they'd tried starving themselves of following a fasting plan in a bid to shed the pounds. In terms of choosing which diet plan to follow, the number one factor was revealed as how easy the meals were to prepare (32 per cent), followed by still being allowed big portions (28 per cent), how quickly they'd see results (25 per cent), still being allowed alcohol and treats (19 per cent), and not having to do much exercise (18 per cent).







A student hard at work at Leasowes High School

# Pupils will 'aspire and achieve'



Pupils at Leasowes High School take pride in their smart uniform



Leap into action at a school providing students with knowledge, skills and resilience

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**THE Leasowes High School motto – 'Aspire and Achieve' – emphasises a triple 'A' approach to student success.**

Traditional approaches are underpinned by respect, strong discipline and a sharp focus on achievement in all its forms.

Leasowes is a caring school that aims to offer an elite educational experience which is not elitist in nature and which provides students with the knowledge, skills and resilience they will require to live happy, fulfilling and productive lives.

In January 2016 Ofsted concluded that Leasowes High was a "good" school in all categories and commented: "The headteacher and other leaders have transformed the quality of education that the school provides since the last inspection."

Senior leaders in the school have successfully created a shared vision to 'Aspire and Achieve'. We are very proud of what has been

achieved so far but relish the challenges ahead in becoming the outstanding school that our community deserves.

The 2015/16 academic year has been very significant for the school and our 2015 English Baccalaureate score of 29 per cent (national average 24 per cent) placed us at the top of both Dudley and Sandwell local authorities on this highly academic measure.

Academic excellence is important and this progress is due to excellent teaching and the positive relationships that exist in the classrooms.

"Teaching is particularly effective in English, mathematics and science" – Ofsted 2016.

The 'Grammar School' stream promotes excellent outcomes for the highest achievers, but the same level of care and support is shown to all students, regardless of their starting points. Ofsted recognised this in their report saying: "Working relationships between pupils and teachers are highly effective and support learning well."

Excellent pastoral staff helped the school to achieve a national award for the school's stance on bullying and parents can be assured that: "Pupils feel safe and are safe at school" – Ofsted 2016.

A school's culture is often defined by the way in which its students behave. Ofsted also pointed out: "Pupils show pride in their appearance and their school as they are smart and wear their uniform correctly. In lessons, pupils listen carefully to staff and other pupils and respond quickly to instructions and requests. They are courteous, pleasant and helpful to adults and each other."

These comments give a flavour of the calm and industrious atmosphere that pervades the school on a daily basis.

Next term the school will join the

Invictus Education Trust, a group of four excellent and outstanding secondary schools comprising Ellowes Hall Sports College, Kinver High School, Ounsdale High School and Crestwood High School.

As part of this strong multi-academy group the school will regain a Sixth Form at Leasowes, set to open in September 2017, and this will transform the prospects of students.

Along with a new synthetic pitch facility, which will be replaced for September 2016, the school is facing the future with confidence and the desire to Aspire and Achieve.

If you wish to see the Leasowes approach in action join the open fortnight of events or call the school on (01384) 816285.



## LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS 2016

### Open evening tours:

18.30 - 20.30

Tuesday 20th September

Thursday 22nd September

### Open morning tours:

9.00 - 10.30

Wednesday 21st September

Friday 23rd September

Tuesday 27th September

Thursday 29th September



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# ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE



## FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS AREA

# Inspriational Rowena has helped turn lives around

MORE than 9,000 trains have departed one minute or more late from Rowley Regis railway station over a six month period.

The figures come as part of an Freedom of Information request to Network Rail which shows that 9,688 services departed one minute or more late from the station which also serves Blackheath, out of the 25,098 that were planned to between November and May. Around 176 services were also cancelled during that period.

The most delayed service was the 9.52am Worcester Shrub Hill to Whitlocks End service on the November 26, 2015, which was 61 minutes late.

Spokesman Simon Masters said: "Network Rail constantly works with train operators to improve punctuality and reliability."

## £480k sale of Regis Lodge

A FORMER day centre has been sold at auction for £480,000 – nearly three times the asking price.

Regis Lodge, in Rowley Regis, had a guide price of £180,000 when it went under the hammer.

The building at 50 George Avenue features office accommodation and occupies around 3,500 sq metres of land.

It was sold by auctioneers SDL Bigwood to a buyer whose identity has yet to be revealed.

**THE HEADTEACHER** of a school which helps students with health and psychological difficulties is retiring after 26 years in education, including ten as head at a Rowley Regis school.

In that time Rowena Challoner has helped to change the lives of many youngsters who were unable to attend mainstream schools, but who have excelled since going to Whiteheath Education Centre in Rowley Regis.

The school provides education to pupils not only at the centre, but also in a dedicated classroom at Sandwell General Hospital and, if needed, at individual pupil homes.

Under Mrs Challoner's leadership it has been rated 'Outstanding' in its last two reports by schools inspector Ofsted.

### Challenges

She said: "It is a very special place. They come to us when they have been through numerous difficulties and have been out of mainstream school for a while, and we get them through these challenges and then back into education. From here many of them go on to college and university."

"It requires a lot of build-

ing their self-confidence, showing them that they can achieve. When they do, it makes the job so rewarding."

Mrs Challoner was touched to see many former pupils and staff return to say goodbye.

"It was so moving to see them again, and (hear about) all that they had achieved" she said. "There was one young lady who has now graduated from Nottingham Trent University. She said that had it not been for Whiteheath she would never have achieved that."

Mrs Challoner, added: "My message to all our pupils is that you can do anything you want to – pursue your dreams."

The 63-year-old is planning trips abroad, including to her daughter in California. She will also volunteer with the National Trust.

By Judith Hawkins



Headteacher Rowena Challoner is delighted that so many of her students at Whiteheath have gone on to achieve more

## Minister is called on to review case

NEW Justice Secretary Liz Truss has been urged by a judge to review the case of a 'dangerous and immature' West Bromwich man whose crimes include attacking a blind teenager in Rowley Regis.

Luke Byron Footman, 25, was locked up indefinitely for public protection in May 2010 at Birmingham Crown Court.

He was told he would be behind bars for a minimum of 21 months but has served more than three times that.

Judges heard he had attacked a fellow inmate and repeatedly set fire to his cell.

Footman, of Phoenix Street, appeared over a video link from prison at London's Criminal Appeal Court on Friday.

Mr Justice Gilbart said the evidence suggests Footman is now in need of hospital treatment.

## Shed blaze in back garden

AN accidental shed fire saw firefighters battle raging flames in the back garden of a Rowley Regis home last Tuesday.

Firefighters were called to Waterfall Lane where the blaze had engulfed the structure.

No-one was hurt in the incident.

Fire crews spent nearly two hours at the scene putting out the fire and damping down the scene. Eight firefighters attended from Kings Norton Fire Station.

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# Cleaning pond pump filters on to-do list

## WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Take cuttings of new shoots of camellias, rooting them in a gritty compost in a covered propagator.
2. Clean pond pump filters to ensure they don't get clogged up with algae.
3. Harvest Japanese onions planted last autumn.
4. Thin out heavy crops of apples, picking off small, damaged fruits to give the rest more room.
5. Continue to pick sweet peas for cut flowers indoors or remove dead seed heads to ensure that plants continue to flower.
6. Feed established wisteria with a high potash liquid feed to promote flowering.
7. Layer non-flowering side shoots of carnations to raise new plants.
8. Water blue hydrangeas with a solution of colourant to ensure blue varieties remain blue in future and prompt pink ones to turn blue.
9. Top up levels of ponds and water features as water evaporates.
10. Pick ripe tomatoes as they form and remove leaves below the lowest truss to improve air circulation.
11. Pick lettuce, cutting every alternate one in a row to leave others more space to develop.



## GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT -

### Autumn and winter salads

YOU may now be reaping the rewards of your summer leaves from successional sowings, but there's still time to plant some salads to enjoy later on in the season. Rocket and lamb's lettuce can still be sown in most situations, while winter purslane prefers lighter soil. Sow seeds thinly in drills around 23cm (9in) apart. These leaves don't need to be thinned out. Just cut them as you need them and they will come again. Oriental veg such as Chinese radish, pak choi and mizuna can also be added to the mix or grown as ornamental plants in borders, sowing in rows 30cm (1ft) apart. These can be thinned to 15-30cm (6-12 inches) between plants.

### Great British Pea Week

LAUNCHED by the Yes Peas! campaign on behalf of British pea growers and freezers, Great British Pea Week (July 11-17) was the first annual awareness week dedicated to peas, is giving everyone a reason to celebrate peas this harvesting season.



The UK is the largest producer and consumer of frozen peas in Europe and on average, everyone in Britain eats nearly 9,000 peas per year.

This July, approximately 700 pea growers will harvest 2 billion portions of peas to feed Britain for the year.

The harvesting process is a military operation and lasts an average of six to eight weeks. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, harvesting machines,

known as viners, work in unison to harvest shell and transport the peas from field to frozen as quickly as possible – the majority in just 150 minutes.

Versatile and nutritious, frozen peas are a popular freezer essential and the Yes Peas! campaign is asking everyone to get involved this Great British Pea Week and get cooking with peas.

Try this recipe from TV chef and Yes Peas! ambassador, Rachel Green:

### Pea, Tuna & White Bean Salad With Lemon Dressing

- Ingredients**
- 400g frozen peas
  - 425g can tuna, drained
  - 1/2 red onion, peeled and finely diced
  - 440g can of cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
  - 3 tbsp roughly chopped flat leaf parsley
  - 2 tbsp capers
  - 1 cucumber, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunky batons
  - 150g spinach leaves, blanched
  - Juice of 2 lemons
  - 2 tbsp olive oil
  - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to season

#### Method

Cook the peas in slightly salted boiling water for two minutes and refresh under cold water. Place the peas, tuna, onion, beans, parsley, capers, cucumber and spinach in a bowl and turn gently.

Mix the lemon juice and olive oil together in a bowl and season with sea salt and black pepper. Toss salad in the lemon dressing.



Agapanthus, or African lily, has large circular blue or white flower heads

# A must-have for borders with big, bright flowers

## BEST OF THE BUNCH

### Agapanthus

THE African lily is a must-have perennial for sunny gardens, its large globes of blue or white flowers providing both colour and architectural value in borders and pots.

Some of the brightest and biggest are least hardy, so go to a reputable supplier or specialist nursery who may be able to offer hardier and newer hybrids.

After flowering, the heavy circular seedheads remain and are excellent for cutting and using in dried arrangements indoors. Agapanthus prefer sunny, sheltered spots and in pots they don't like to have too much space. In borders, however, don't let them be crowded in and shaded by other plants and make sure they're not too wet or cold in winter.

Good varieties include Headbourne hybrids, which provide dazzling displays in late summer, or Agapanthus campanulatus, which are best for permanent border planting. Look for the deep blue 'Cobalt Blue' or A. 'Polar Ice', one of the best white forms.

### Pelargoniums

THESE are among the most drought-tolerant of summer bedding plants, adding colour and texture to containers and at the front of borders.

They used to be known as geraniums as their seed capsules are similar to those of our native hardy geraniums, but the name still sticks.

There are more than 200 species, but the most common are zonal pelargoniums, the ones with leaves like opened fans.

There are also 'uniques', which bear masses of small flowers and scented foliage, while regal pelargoniums are among the earliest to flower and many produce rich colours including deep burgundies and plums.

Ivy-leaved types are trailing, so ideal for hanging baskets and containers. The beauty about these plants is that they hardly need watering - in fact most problems occur through over-watering - and if its roots become constricted in the pot it should flower profusely. Good varieties include 'Voodoo', a unique variety with wine red flowers with black centres, and 'Attar of Roses', a light pink type valued for its rose-scented foliage.

# Off on holiday? Don't let garden go to pot

By Hannah Stephenson

**GOING on holiday this summer? Don't let your garden go to pot in your absence. This week we're giving top tips on how to make sure it still looks good after two weeks away**

If you're away for a fortnight in the summer holidays and don't want to return to bedraggled borders, dried-out pots and a lawn which looks like straw, take action now.

### BEFORE YOU GO

Weed, mow and water. Make sure beds and borders are tidy, weeded and well watered. Deadhead and cut back perennials which have finished flowering. If you have annuals in borders, deadhead them and even pick off emerging flowers to conserve the plants' energy for when you return. They may reward you with fresh blooms which come through in your absence. Mow the lawn, leaving the clippings on it which will help conserve moisture should it be really dry when you're away. Give containers and baskets a really good water and feed before you leave.

### WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Family, friends and neighbours: Call on kindly neighbours, friends or family who live nearby to maintain your garden in your absence. Leave clear instructions about watering and deadheading, and get them to harvest any ripening fruit and veg from your allotment or vegetable patch for their own use. That way it won't go to seed. They could even freeze what they don't use.

**Automatic watering:** There are many automatic irrigation systems on the market which can be timed to go on and off as you wish. More sophisticated models are activated depending on the dryness of the soil while others, such as Hozelock's Cloud Controller, this year's RHS Chelsea Garden Product of the Year, can be operated from your mobile phone.

**Shade pots:** If you have a collection of patio pots, give them a really good soaking just before you go away and put them all together in a sheltered, shady spot which is open to the elements (including rain). Clustering them should help conserve moisture, reduce evaporation and make it easier for friends or neighbours to water. Stand the pots in saucers or trays which act as a reservoir and hold some of the excess water as it drains.

**Hanging baskets:** These can need watering twice a day in the height of summer and if you don't have a neighbour to do it, you'll have your work cut out to keep them looking good. Take down the basket and dig a depression in the soil in a shady border that you can sink the basket in. Water and feed the basket, ensuring the soil underneath is thoroughly soaked to and give your basket plants a good trim before you go.

**Other watering solutions:** If you don't have an automatic watering system or a neighbour to take care of your patio pots, create your own self-watering system by placing a bucket of water on bricks



Make sure you mow the lawn before going on holiday and leave the clippings on it to help retain moisture



If neighbours are helping, leave clear instructions for watering



Deadhead your flowers before you go away

and surrounding it with your pots, which should be at a lower level than the bucket. Cut out strips of capillary matting (available from garden centres and DIY stores) to create a wick for each pot, placing one end of the matting in the bucket and training it

down and inserting the other end into the compost, which should keep it moist when you're away.

**Drought-tolerant plants:** There are plenty of colourful plants which will survive your two-week absence. Geraniums,

cosmos, escholzia (Californian poppy), gazania, osteospermum and nicotiana should all be okay.

A wider list of drought-tolerant plants is available from the Royal Horticultural Society at [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)



# fast the ticket



## Going for Bust

Racecourse gig – Page 25

### Fright night

See Page 25



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20 AUG • EBOR STAKES • EMMERDALE  
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3 SEP • TOWER OF LONDON POPPIES AT LINCOLN CASTLE  
3 SEP • KYNNEN AT AUCKLAND CASTLE (BBQ)  
10 SEP • DAYFORD AIR SHOW  
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17 SEP • MAN UTD THREATS OF DREAMS  
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SAT 6 AUG, 3 SEP, 15 OCT

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MON 1, 8, 22, 29 AUG, 12, 19 SEP, 3 OCT

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MON 1, 15 AUG, 5, 19 SEP, 24 OCT, 28 NOV, 5 DEC

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SAT 6, 20 AUG, 3, 24 SEP

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5 DAYS FROM **£259.95**

4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Mackays/Garve Hotel  
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MON 8, 22 AUG, 12 SEP, 3 OCT

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5 DAYS MON 1, 15 AUG, 19 SEP, 24 OCT, 5 DEC

#### WARNER STUDIO TOUR Making of Harry Potter



2 DAYS **£119.95**

OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD  
Admission included plus visits to Science & Natural History Museums

SAT 3, 24 SEP, 8 OCT, 12, 19, 26 NOV, 3, 10, 17 DEC

#### TINTAGEL PADSTOW & PORT ISAAC

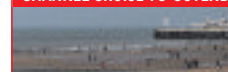


5 DAYS FROM **£219.95**

4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Camelot Castle Hotel  
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MON 5, 19, 26 SEP, 3, 10, 24 OCT

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MON 15, 22, 29 AUG, 5, 12, 19, 26 SEP

#### LIVERPOOL BEATLES TOUR MERSEY CRUISE & CHESTER



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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD  
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SAT 30 JUL, 13 AUG, 10, 24 SEP, 15, 29 OCT

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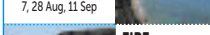
EASTBOURNE  
31 Jul, 28 Aug, 11 Sep



FOLKESTONE  
& BRUGES  
31 Jul



TORQUAY  
31 Jul, 7, 28 Aug, 11 Sep



BOURNEMOUTH  
31 Jul, 7, 28 Aug, 11 Sep



ISLE OF WIGHT  
31 Jul, 7, 28 Aug, 11 Sep

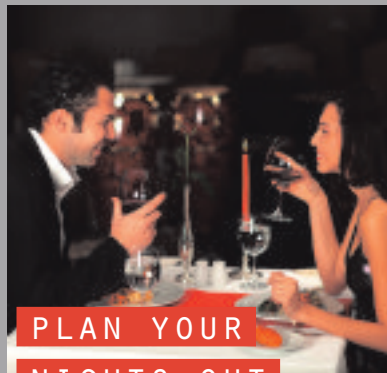


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Until Saturday  
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton  
West End star Louise Dearman  
(pictured) plays nightclub singer Miss  
Adelaide in this acclaimed revival of the  
classic New York musical, with Richard  
Fleeshman and Maxwell Caulfield.  
Visit [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk)

## The Dead Daisies



Tuesday, 7pm  
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
Classic hard rock from an outfit featur-  
ing ex-Mötley Crüe singer John Corabi  
(pictured) and Whitesnake/Dio guitarist  
Doug Aldrich. Support is provided by  
Inglorious.  
Visit [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

## The Kentucky Headhunters



Monday, 8pm  
Robin 2, Bilston  
Southern rock and blues from a US  
band with musical roots back to the  
late 1960s, who sold two million copies  
of 1989 album Pickin' On Nashville.  
Bad Touch support.  
Visit [therobin.co.uk](http://therobin.co.uk)

## Mary Chapin Carpenter



Tuesday, 7.30pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham  
The five-time Grammy Award-winning  
American singer-songwriter returns  
with a new album The Things That We  
Are Made Of, her 14th in total. Rose  
Cousins support.  
Visit [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## POP

**The Searchers**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Sun at  
7.30pm, £19  
Festival Drayton Centre,  
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.  
Call 01630 654444

**Russell Watson: Songs  
From The Heart**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**The Bee Gees Story:  
Nights On Broadway**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Ray Quinn**  
Sun at 7.30pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Andrew Browning:  
George Michael Tribute**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

## ROCK & METAL

**Catapult Club Feat. Superhooch**  
Tonight at 6.30pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**A Foreigners Journey:  
Foreigner And Journey Tribute**  
Tonight,  
The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

**Guns 2 Roses:  
Guns N' Roses Tribute**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Definitely Mightbe: Oasis  
Tribute, Adored: Stone  
Roses Tribute**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Into The Shadows:  
Shadows Tribute**  
Tonight at 7.30pm, £10 - £15  
Prince Of Wales Centre,  
Cannock,  
WS11 1DE.  
Call 01543 578762

**The Dead Daisies**  
Tue at 7pm, £12.50  
The Slade Rooms,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1RQ.  
Call 0870 320 7000

**West Coast Eagles:  
The Eagles Tribute**  
Tomorrow at 7pm,  
The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

**Area 11**  
Thu at 7pm, £11  
The Slade Rooms,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.  
Call 0870 320 7000

## FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

**Brolly & Friends 2016  
Irish Charity Night**  
Sun at 7pm,  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**The Reverend Peyton's  
Big Damn Band**  
Tue at 8.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel,  
Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Mary Chapin Carpenter**  
Tue at 7.30pm,  
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**The White Buffalo**  
Tonight at 7pm,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

## JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL, FUNK AND MOTOWN

**Motown's Greatest  
Hits: How Sweet It Is...**  
Sun at 7.30pm, £21 - £23  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**The Kentucky Headhunters**  
Mon at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Sax In The City:  
The Notebenders**  
Tomorrow at 1.30pm,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Electric Swing Circus**  
Thu at 7pm,  
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

## CLASSICAL

**CBSO Youth Orchestra  
Academy: Britten, Bridge,  
Maxwell Davies, Beethoven**  
Sun at 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**CBSO: Summer Classics**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

## THEATRE

**You Boy**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
ST16 2LT.  
Call 01785 254653

**Ventoux**  
Tonight at 8pm,  
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Bollywood Dance  
Showcase 2016**  
Sun at 6pm,  
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**The Hound Of The Baskervilles**  
Sun at 7.30pm,  
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**The Giant's Loo Roll:  
TaleGate Theatre**  
Tue at 2pm,  
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,  
TF2 6EP.  
Call 01952 382382

**Guys And Dolls**  
Tonight at 7.30pm, tomorrow at  
2.30pm, 7.30pm,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 573320

**Barbara Nice's Summer Special**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Mamma Mia!**  
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10pm, tomor-  
row at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, Mon at  
7.30pm - 10pm, Tue at 7.30pm  
- 10pm, Wed at 2.30pm - 5.30pm,  
7.30pm - 10pm, Thu at 7.30pm -  
10pm, £28 - £60  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB.  
Call 0844 338 5000

**National Youth Dance Company:  
In-Nocentes**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

## COMEDY

**EdinBrum Previews: Patrick  
Monahan & Eddy Brimson**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
mac, Birmingham,  
B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Thursday Night Comedy Car-  
ousel**  
Thu at 8pm,  
The Glee Club,  
Birmingham,  
B5 4TD.  
Call 0871 472 0400

**The Best In Live  
Stand-up Comedy**  
Tonight at 8.15pm, tomorrow at  
8.15pm,  
The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
B5 4TD.  
Call 0871 472 0400

**Comedy In The Met**  
Tomorrow at 8pm,  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
ST16 2LT.  
Call 01785 254653

## MISC. EVENTS

**Summer Holiday Family Fun**  
Tomorrow - Thu,  
Cadbury World,  
Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU.  
Call 0844 880 7667

**REP Event Showcase**  
Sun at 11am - 4pm,  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP.  
Call 0121 236 4455

**Approaches To  
Aspects Of Drawing**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,  
University of Birmingham,  
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.  
Call 0121 414 7333

**Young Artists**  
Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm,  
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,  
WV1 1DU.  
Call 01902 552055

**SLAM Wrestling**  
Wed at 7.30pm,  
Prince Of Wales Centre,  
Cannock, WS11 1DE.  
Call 01543 578762

**Kings Heath Food Assembly**  
Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

## GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

**Mabel's Vintage Fair**  
Sun at 11am - 4pm,  
Chasewater Railway, Chasetown,  
Burntwood, WS8 7NL.  
Call 01543 682854

**Antiques For  
Everyone Summer Fair**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at  
11am - 5pm,  
The NEC Birmingham,  
B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Land, Sea And Air**  
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at  
12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,  
Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am  
- 5pm,  
The New Art Gallery Walsall,  
WS2 8LG.  
Call 01922 654400

**Kan Xuan**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at  
11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm,  
Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am  
- 5pm,  
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,  
Birmingham, B1 2HS.  
Call 0121 248 0708

**Jesse Bruton**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at  
11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm,  
Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am  
- 5pm,  
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,  
Birmingham, B1 2HS.  
Call 0121 248 0708

**All The World's A Stage**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at  
11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm,  
Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am  
- 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,  
University of Birmingham,  
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.  
Call 0121 414 7333

**Inspire 16: The Young  
Creatives Of Birmingham**  
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am  
- 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed  
at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am -  
5pm,  
Birmingham Museum and Art  
Gallery, B3 3DH.  
Call 0121 303 1966

**A Big Bang: The Origins Of The  
Pop Art Collection Part 2**  
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at  
10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,  
Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am  
- 5pm,  
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,  
WV1 1DU.  
Call 01902 552055

**Tales Of The City**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at  
11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm,  
Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am  
- 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,  
University of Birmingham,  
Edgbaston,  
B15 2TS.  
Call 0121 414 7333

**Two Tyres**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,  
Bilston Craft Gallery,  
WV14 7LU.  
Call 01902 552507

**Craft Goes Pop**  
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at  
10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,  
Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am  
- 5pm,  
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,  
WV1 1DU.  
Call 01902 552055

**The Lanchester Grand Circus**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at  
11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm,  
Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am  
- 5pm,  
Bantock House,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV3 9LQ.  
Call 01902 552195

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Reunited Busted back in the race

NOUGHTIES pop favourites Busted are mended... the return of frontman Charlie Simpson after a decade away means that the original trio will be back for a huge end of summer gig at Wolverhampton Racecourse on September 3.

Music Live! presents an afternoon and evening of horse racing and pop music for £38 a ticket (£18 under-18s) and family packages are available. Gates open at 3.20pm and there will be seven races on the all-weather track, starting at 5.50pm, followed by music after the last race.

Singer Charlie Simpson has rejoined former bandmates James Bourne and Matt Willis, after they formed a partnership with McFly in supergroup McBusted for hugely successful arena tours.

Busted themselves had four no1 singles, two albums and sold five million records before enjoying a record-breaking run of 12 sold-out shows at Wembley.

The Essex trio's hits included What I Go To School For, Year 3000, You Said No, Air Hostess, Crashed The Wedding, Who's David and Thunderbirds/3AM.

Charlie said: "A year ago James and I got together and just started hanging out. It really had been 10 years since we hung out. There was this huge void of time where we just didn't

speaking. Not because he had any issues but I was off doing my own thing, and he was busy, so we just drifted apart.

"And we just started... getting on. It felt really different, somehow, to how it had ten years ago. And the idea crept into my head: what would Busted look like today?"



Busted mended – James Bourne, Matt Willis and Charlie Simpson

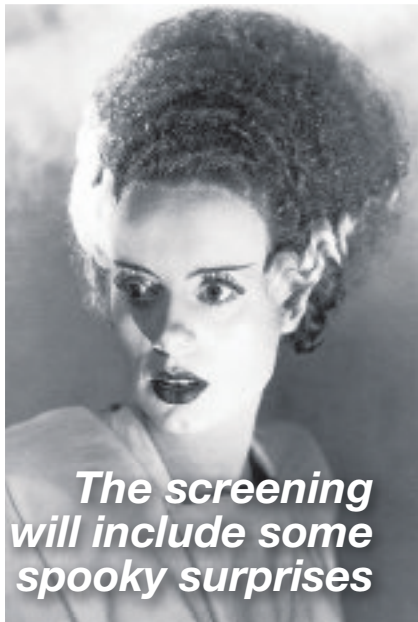
James, guitarist and the main songwriter, admits he was pessimistic about the return of the band he had co-founded in Southend-on-Sea in 2000, adding: "I thought it was dead and buried when the band had been gone for five years.

"For me, there's a huge sense of

unfinished business," says bassist Matt. "I think I always thought in my heart we'd do Busted again."

The Wolverhampton gig extends the band's comeback Pigs Can Fly tour.

See [www.wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk) for details.



The screening will include some spooky surprises

## Movie night at the castle

DUDLEY Castle will be the atmospheric backdrop for an outdoor screening of a classic black and white horror movie this summer.

The Bride of Frankenstein, directed by Dudley-born Hollywood movie maker James Whale, will be screened on Saturday, August 6, at an event entitled Dudley Castle After Dark, as part of Birmingham-based Flatpack Film Festival's Black Country Pop-up Film Tour.

The 1935 movie stars Boris Karloff as the Monster and Elsa Lanchester in the dual role of Frankenstein author Mary Shelley and the Monster's mate.

The special screening will include some spooky surprises and the audience are invited to bring their own blanket or chair when the Black Country landmark is transformed into an open-air cinema.

Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions) for the 8pm screening. The film is a PG and runs for 75 minutes. Tickets available from [flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/bride-of-frankenstein](http://flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/bride-of-frankenstein) website.

Mr Whale, who died in 1957 aged 67, came from humble beginnings in Park Hill Street, Buffery Park, to become one of cinema's most influential directors. His work included such classics as Frankenstein and the Invisible Man in the 1930s. One of six children born to a blast furnaceman and a nurse, he attended Kate's Hill Board School, Bayliss Charity School and Dudley Blue Coat School. He began his career as an artist and actor before directing, first in the theatre and then for the silver screen.

### Psychedelic rock and boyband pop

PSYCHEDELIC outfit Moon Duo from America's West Coast bring their hazy fuzz rock to Kings Heath pub venue The Hare & Hounds on Friday with support from Birmingham's Victorias At Sea. The venue's other room that night hosts Canadian art rockers Weaves with Brum garage rockers Table Scraps. On Saturday Ireland's hottest boy band Taken play the High Street venue, then US soul songstress Conya Doss plays on Wednesday.

On Friday California's White Buffalo (AKA Jake Smith) is at Digbeth's O2 Institute. Scottish outfit The Lafontaines bring hip hop rock to The Rainbow in Digbeth on Sunday.

### Super-sized panto with hint of Spice

THE World's Biggest Pantomime is set to dazzle this Christmas in Birmingham – and it's a real family affair for its biggest star.

Traditional panto Snow White will be 'super-sized' at the Barclaycard Arena with a cast of 100 performers and a 45ft-tall castle. The cast include former Spice Girl Mel B as the Scary Queen with her daughters Angel Murphy, nine, and Madison Belafonte, five, taking part.

The show, December 19-22, also features Take Me Out's Paddy McGuinness, Celebrity Big Brother winner Rylan and star dancers Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.

### Oh Mamma Mia! show is a big hit

SUNSHINE musical Mamma Mia! continues to pull in the crowds at Birmingham Hippodrome, where it runs until September 3. The combination of a Greek island setting, humour and romance with the music of ABBA has proven the perfect recipe for a blockbuster.

That's Entertainment, a show celebrating musical theatre, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday with West End star Ruthie Henshall. On Sunday Motown tribute show How Sweet It Is visits the Alex for one night. Cult musical Rent is staged at The Old Rep on Station Street from Tuesday to Saturday, July 30.

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**STARMAKERS KARAOKE**  
**FRI 22/07/16**  
**WILL KINN + DISCO**  
**SAT 23/07/16**  
**BLUES BROTHERS TRIBUTE**

**SUN 24/07/16**  
**STARMAKERS KARAOKE**  
**MON 25/07/16**  
**BENS KARAOKE + DISCO**  
**TUES 26/07/16**  
**PREDATORS KARAOKE**

**WED 27/07/16**  
**MR LEE O'SULLIVAN**  
**THUR 28/07/16**  
**STARMAKERS KARAOKE**

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**CHOICE**



Quentin Blake

**The Marvellous World of Roald Dahl (BBC2, 8pm)**  
Documentary, making use of archived letters, writings and biographical material to tell the story of the life of Roald Dahl. From his time as a fighter pilot in the Second World War, though to his work as a spy and his encounters with Walt Disney and Theodore Roosevelt, the programme explores how Dahl's personal experiences may have informed the fantastical tales he would eventually publish, including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Matilda. Includes contributions by Dahl's last wife Liccy, his daughter Lucy and biographer Donald Sturrock. Long-term collaborator Quentin Blake also provides new animated illustrations based on the events of Dahl's life.

**BBC1**

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.45** Faster, Higher, Stronger: Katarina's Olympic Dream. A profile of Team GB heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson. **1.15** Athletics: London Anniversary Games. Day one from the Olympic Stadium. **5.15 Film:** Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. **6.30 BBC News.**  
**6.40 Regional Programme.**  
**6.50 The Getaway Car.** Competitors from London, south Wales and Liverpool are among those taking to the course in South Africa to put their collaborative driving skills to the test.  
**7.40 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together and answer questions to win a reunion in a five-star location. Includes the weekend draw. Last in the series.  
**8.30 The Musketeers.** Aramis and the Queen attempt to broker peace between France and Spain, but their efforts go disastrously awry when the villainous Grimaud kidnaps Aramis in a bid to seal an alliance with the influential Duke of Lorraine. Lucien's friends threaten to ruin Anne's reputation, and the Musketeers must find a way to rescue their comrade in arms while maintaining the Queen's virtue. However, D'Artagnan's family lies threaten to derail the mission. Meanwhile, the White Plague tightens its grip on King Louis, and as his health goes into a spectacular decline, a familiar face returns to lay claim to Athos. Swashbuckling drama, starring Santiago Cabrera, Matthew McNulty, Alexandra Dowling and Tom Burke.  
**9.25 BBC News;** Weather.  
**9.45 Mrs Brown's Boys Live.** The comedy starring Brendan O'Carroll goes live for a special episode where anything could happen.  
**10.15 Peter Kay: 20 Years of Funny.** A celebration of the comedian's two decades in the business; (R) National Lottery Update.  
**11.15 Film: The Wedding Video.** (2012) Comedy, with Rufus Hound.  
**12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.50** BBC News.

**BBC2**

**6.25** The Women's Football Show. (R) **6.55** Coast. (R) **7.45 Film:** The Valley of Gwangi. (1969) **9.20** Taking Flight: Britain's America's Cup Challenge. **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Hairys Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) **1.00 Film:** Day of the Evil Gun. (1968) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **5.30** Gardeners' World. (R)  
**6.00 Newsnight Special: Life After Brexit.**  
**6.50 Proms Extra 2016.** New series. Katie Derham returns with the weekly magazine show, which serves as a companion to the BBC's signature classical music season. With music by Shetu Kaneeth-Mason.  
**7.30 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. (R)  
**8.00 The Marvellous World of Roald Dahl.** Documentary telling the story of the life of Roald Dahl, with contributions by Dahl's wife Liccy, his daughter Lucy, biographer Donald Sturrock and illustrator Quentin Blake.  
**9.00 Keith Richards: The Origin of the Species.** In a documentary directed by acclaimed film-maker Julien Temple, the Rolling Stones guitarist looks back at his formative years in the aftermath of the Second World War.  
**10.00 Ol XL.** Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Aisling Bea, Tony Hawks and Alan Davies attempt to answer Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of love and loveliness. (R)  
**10.45 Versailles.** With Louis laid low by a major fever, those conspiring against him grow in strength and confidence. Meanwhile, Philippe is caught in the middle; (R) Inside Versailles.  
**11.45 Film: I Am Number Four.** (2011) A teenager with special powers becomes a fugitive from aliens determined to hunt him down and destroy him. Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer and Timothy Olyphant.  
**1.25 Film:** Far from Home. (1989) Thriller, starring Drew Barrymore. **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

**ITV**

**6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Wine Show. **1.30** Big Boy Little Boy. (R) **2.00** Doc Martin. (R) **3.00** The Chase. (R) **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R)  
**6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.  
**6.15** **ITV News;** Weather.  
**6.30 You've Been Framed! Gold.** Harry Hill narrates another selection of comical mishaps filmed by viewers. This week, a mechanic uses an airbag as a launch-pad. A moped selfie causes a nasty accident that results in a string of profanities, and a peck from a tropical bird make's Grandad's eyes water. Plus, a video detailing the dangers of wearing a monkey as a wig. (R)  
**7.00 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.  
**7.45 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man.** (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the secrets hidden in his dead parents's past, leading him to a mysterious corporation and an incident that imbues him with superheroan powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a devastating transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans.  
**10.20** **ITV News;** Weather.  
**10.35 Film: Inside Man.** (2006) A negotiator deals with a hostage crisis at a bank, but a political fixer is sent to make sure secrets in the vault stay hidden. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington.  
**12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

**CHANNEL 4**

**6.05** The Grid. **6.30** Gillette World Sport. **7.00** Tenerife Bluetrail. **7.25** British Rally Championship. **7.50** Dare to Believe: Georgie Hermitage. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** The Morning Line. **9.55** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Coverage from the Hungaroring. **11.25** The Superhumans Show. **11.55** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Hungaroring (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and York. **4.45** A Place in the Sun. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **5.55** Film: Grease. (1978) Romantic musical, with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.  
**8.00 Alan Carr's Grease Night.** Broadcasting live from a 1950s-style high school prom, the presenter is joined by celebrity guests including comedian Katharine Ryan and Codi Conn (Frenchy) to celebrate the film. The programme features dancing, dating and audience surprises, and at the end of the night two lucky revellers will win the ultimate high-school accolade of being crowned prom king and queen.  
**10.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie.** (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil head to Greece for a wild holiday – but things do not go to plan. Comedy, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.  
**11.50 Dare to Believe: Jack Rutter.** A profile of the captain of Great Britain's disability football team, who will attempt to lead his team to glory at Rio 2016. (R)  
**11.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Part two of two. The chef continues his quest to transform the fortunes of the Burger Kitchen in Los Angeles, where owner Alan gets a wake-up call from internet critics. (R)  
**12.55** Film: Rec 3: Genesis. (2012) Horror sequel, starring Leticia Dolera. **2.20** Dare to Believe: Ali Javard. A profile of powerlifter Ali Javard. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Lisa decides to set up Zack and Holly, and later she and Sonia fight on The Dog patio. Meanwhile, Cleo and Nathan grow closer, and Kim collapses. (R) **4.25** French Collection. Three Brits aim to buy cheap and sell high after visiting a market in Arles, France. Last in the series. (R) **5.20** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. A couple's bedroom receives a makeover. (R)

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00** Milkshake! **8.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Benefits: Can't Work, Won't Work. (R) **1.00** Benefits: 26 Kids & Claiming. (R) **2.00** Benefits: Yorkshire Dole. (R) **3.00** Benefits Beauty Queens. (R) **4.00** World's Strongest Man 2015. (R) **5.00** World's Strongest Man 2015. (R)  
**6.00 World's Strongest Man 2015.** Action from the third heat of the competition, which took place in Malaysia. Reigning champion Zydrunas Savickas took part alongside two-time Britain's Strongest Man Laurence Shahlaei, veteran American Nick Best and former Russian marine Mikhail Shvilyakov. Presented by James Richardson, Charlie Webster and Terry Hollands, with commentary by Colin Bryce and Danny Wallace. (R)  
**6.55** **5 News Weekend.**  
**7.00 Cricket** on 5. England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from day two of the Second Test in the four-match series, which took place at Old Trafford. With commentary by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.  
**8.00 NCIS.** An NCIS Cyber case becomes a united global effort when evidence confirms that The Calling, an international terror group, has been recruiting vulnerable youngsters via the internet.  
**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00 24 Hours.** Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including another chance to see last night's eviction, revealing who became the latest unlucky housemate given just 30 seconds to say their goodbyes, and how their departure has affected the others. However, given that the remaining residents will probably all be in Tuesday night's final, it's doubtful that any of them will be too upset.  
**10.00 Film: The Expendables.** (2010) A mercenary team is double-crossed while on a mission to kill a South American dictator. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jason Statham and Jet Li. Includes 5 News at 11pm.  
**12.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

**DIGITAL**

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Search for the Lost Manuscript: Julian of Norwich **8.00** Who Were the Greeks? **9.00** Beck: The Weak Link **10.30** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **12.35** Gershwin's Summertime: The Song That Conquered the World **1.35** Sing's James Bond **2.35** Top of the Pops: 1962 **3.15** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.35** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **1.35** Ninja Warrior UK **2.35** **Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **4.35** **FYI Daily** **3.40** **Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **4.20** **Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.20** **FYI Daily** **5.25** **Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.15** **Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **7.15** **FYI Daily** **7.20** **Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **8.00** **Film:** Burlesque (2010) **9.00** **FYI Daily** **9.05** **Film:** Burlesque (2010) **10.25** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** **ITV2** Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**12.10** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.10** **Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **3.10** **FYI Daily** **3.15** **Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **4.00** **Film:** Agatha (1979) **5.00** **FYI Daily** **5.05** **Film:** Agatha (1979) **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.10** The Jury **1.10** City Lights **2.05** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**11.00** Tour de France Highlights **12.00** Tour de France Live. **4.30** Storage Wars: New York **4.55** Monster Carp **6.00** The Motorbike Show **7.00** France Highlights **8.00** **Film:** A View to a Kill (1985) **9.05** **FYI Daily** **9.10** **Film:** A View to a Kill (1985) **10.40** **Film:** Game of Death (2010) **11.40** **FYI Daily** **11.45** **Film:** Game of Death (2010) **12.45** Motorway Patrol **1.10** Tour de France Highlights **2.05** **The Wine Show** **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.30** Melissa & Joey **1.30** Baby Daddy **2.30** New Girl **3.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **12.55** Rude Tube **2.55** 2 Broke Girls **3.40** How I Met Your Mother **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Picture Perfect (1997) **1.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **2.55** Fast Girls (2012) **4.40** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **6.45** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** RoboCop (2014) **11.15** The Treatment (2014) **1.50** 21 & Over (2013) **3.45** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Perfect Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
Despite having left his girlfriend behind in New York City for a promotion in Portland, Brandon hopes that they can make things work long-distance. But his new co-worker Simone has other ideas and she impersonates both Brandon and his absent girlfriend in order to end their relationship. Thriller, starring Adrienne Frantz, Jon Cor and Ashley Leggat. (2015)

**TUESDAY**  
**A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
Librarian sleuth Aurora Teagarden inherits a house when her friend unexpectedly dies and discovers her new home has a skull hidden in a window seat. She sets out to discover who the victim was, but finds herself thrown into a troubling murder mystery and a street full of suspicious neighbours. Mystery, starring Candace Cameron Bure, Peter Benson and Dave Collette. (2015)



The Nutty Professor, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Reader, Channel 4, 1.35am**  
A teenager embarks on a brief but passionate affair with an older woman, who seeks solace from her misery in the stories he reads to her. Years later, while observing the Nazi war crimes trials, he encounters her again and learns she acted as an SS concentration camp guard during the Second World War. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning Kate Winslet alongside Ralph Fiennes, Jeanette Hain and David Kross. (2008)

**FRIDAY**  
**The Nutty Professor, ITV, 10.40pm**  
An obese, terminally shy professor invents a potion that transforms him into a slim, loud-mouthed charmer. His new streamlined self immediately sets out to woo the woman of his dreams – but soon starts to ride roughshod over everything he used to care about. Remake of the 1963 Jerry Lewis comedy, starring Eddie Murphy, James Coburn, Larry Miller, Jada Pinkett Smith, Dave Chappelle, John Ales, Patricia Wilson and Jamal Mixon. (1996)

Dawn has to rethink her whole future

Who was it that claimed there are no good roles for women over a certain age, and that females are under-represented in TV drama?

Clearly they haven't been watching British telly recently, where the likes of Happy Valley, Vera, Marcella and From Darkness, to name but a few, have garnered acclaim and great ratings in equal measure.

Brief Encounters, which started four weeks ago, can now be added to that impressive list.

Set in the drab surroundings of the unemployment-hit Sheffield of 1982, it charts the lives of a group of women as they attempt to spice up their existences and earn extra, much-needed money by hosting parties selling exotic lingerie and what are euphemistically described as 'marital aids'.

One of the few members of the cast who remember the period in which the series is set is Penelope Wilton who, in 1982, was appearing in Major Barbara at London's National Theatre.

"Major Barbara was directed by Peter Gill and was a wonderful play by

Shaw," says Wilton when asked for her memories of that era. "I was at the National for a long time.

"We didn't have social media but there were a lot of other things going on. No one was innocent after the war. I think it was a more informed time. I'm not entirely sure that more availability has made anyone any more informed – in fact, quite the contrary."

The Downton Abbey veteran plays Pauline, a housewife who loves her social-climbing husband Brian but is unfulfilled by her meek and mild role in life.

"She has been the stay-at-home wife without seemingly much going on in her life," explains Wilton. "She's quite a solitary person who seems to have a sadness about her. She meets other friends; they have coffee and attend the odd Rotary Club dinner or play Bridge. She feels there is nothing remarkable about her as a person. She has simply fitted in."

"Pauline lives this solitary life, but she comes to realise with the friends she has made through the parties that

she has a support, which she is very grateful for."

Pauline would have loved to have been a mother, and her relationship with Dawn gives her an opportunity to create a sort of surrogate family, which is one of the delights of the programme.

"Her relationship with Dawn, who she meets in the hairdresser's, becomes very important," reveals the actress. "Dawn needs a temporary home so Pauline takes her in and finds she really enjoys having these younger people in the house."

"It doesn't go down very well with her husband Brian who is used to having things in order and an ordered lifestyle. Then this new situation disrupts his world. But, of course, it gives Pauline a role to play and she finds that very invigorating and satisfying."

In this week's episode, she will no doubt have to offer Dawn a shoulder to cry on and a few well-chosen comforting words as her lodger learns that Russell is beginning to get cold feet about their wedding.



Sophie Rundle stars in Brief Encounters, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**Monday**  
**Eden**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

You may know the format by now: 23 men and women attempt to start a new society from scratch in the wilds of the Highlands. This second instalment follows the group as they attempt to organise their new world. Having moved into the camp, the participants must now get used to living with each other, which is easier for some than it is for others. With winter coming, Anton is spending more time building his cabin in the woods.

**TUESDAY**  
**The Living and the Dead**  
**BBC1, 9pm**

An engineer is spooked by a gruesome apparition on All Hallows Eve, and when he and his colleagues flee the scene, the railway company suspends all work. The village's residents pass the incident off as excessive nervousness on the part of city-folk unaccustomed to rural life, but when the hauntings start to take a lethal bent, even they concede there is 'something wrong' with their home. Blame turns to the Applebys, whose return co-incided with the supernatural influx, and an increasingly unhinged Nathan earns the ire of not only his own wife, but also Harriet's father.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Three Day Nanny**  
**Channel 4, 8pm**

Kathryn Mewes is back, and in the first of a new series she heads for Northamptonshire where the Scott family are at their wits' end. Two-year-old Freddie and three-year-old Bobbie pinch, punch, kick or bite anyone they meet, and parents Chris and Becky are desperate to stop them. It's obvious that things are going to have to change for the sake of their family, and their loved ones as this is some of the most extreme behaviour Kathryn has seen. She needs to give the couple a wake-up call, and as the first of her three days helping the family begins, she wastes little time teaching a new approach to managing their boys' attitudes.

**Long Lost Family**  
**ITV, 9pm**

Fifty-year-old Deborah Ozturk has spent years longing to find her birth mother and thank her for the sacrifice she made when she gave her up as a baby. Meanwhile, 74-year-old Ray Jones from West Sussex realised as an adult that there was a void in his life, after he was separated from his mother and younger brother at the age of two.

However, during his search for his family the previous year, he accessed his case file and is now haunted by a missed opportunity. Presented by Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell.

**THURSDAY**  
**Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch**  
**Channel 5, 9pm**



Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch, Friday, Channel 5, 9pm

**FRIDAY**  
**Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year**  
**Channel 4, 8pm**

New series. From hundreds of entries received, just 32 have made it on to the judges' shortlist for 2016 – and only one will take the ultimate shed accolade. George Clarke begins his annual quest by turning his attentions to those sheds in the Unique and Historic categories. These include a shed that rotates 360 degrees to follow the sun and another that can hit the road. Also on display are a faithful replica of an Anglo Saxon longhouse and a Vietnam War bunker in Staffordshire.

**Celebrity MasterChef**  
**BBC1, 8.30pm**

The remaining three competitors' penultimate challenge is the toughest and most daunting of the competition – the Chef's Table, hosted by Michelin star chef Atul Kochhar at Benares, where they must master new techniques and unfamiliar ingredients to impress some of the best chefs in the UK. Judging the food are Cyrus Todiwala, Alyn Williams, Sabrina Ghayour, Romy Gill and Ed Baines. Back at headquarters, the finalists are tasked to present a faultless three-course meal for John Torode and Gregg Wallace – their last chance to prove that they have what it takes to be crowned champion.

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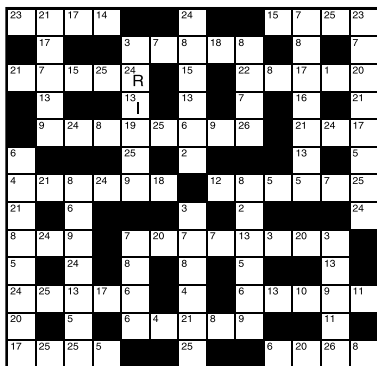
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# BRAIN GYM No.387

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

N V G T Z L Y D P B O H E  
F A M W Q R X J S C U K I

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

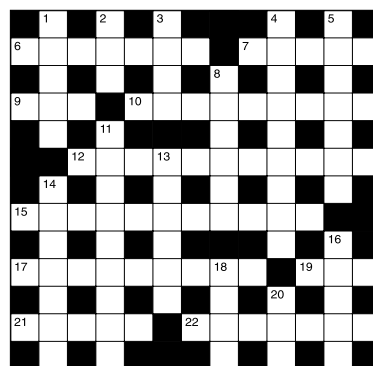
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

6. Pretended to have a meal including mixed gin (7)
7. Open place where nations' delegates meet to drink? (5)
9. This farmyard feature will make an eyesore! (3)
10. Giving a service address (9)
12. To promote a greater number in addition (11)
15. See 3 Down.
17. What one may do to distort man's image? (9)
19. How many can be found in the department working? (3)
21. She changed her name from Alice (5)
22. Describing a belted dress not put to good use, we hear (7)

#### Down

1. See 16 Down.
2. I could be obsessed by this mania (3)
- 3 & 15 Ac. He is most likely to succeed (4-11)
4. Not settled about what to do next in chess? (2,3,4)
5. They forbid slogans carried by demonstrators (7)
8. Some money required for a gift (6)
11. Just the person to look after the sick girl (6)
13. Dealing successfully with a shrew (6)
14. Commendations to bring up in a postscript (7)
- 16 & 1 Dn. Confectionery or the dessert course before the lamb and pork etc. (10)
18. Clothing often changed by the driver (4)
20. Cleopatra's part will inevitably reveal it (3)



### Quick Clues:

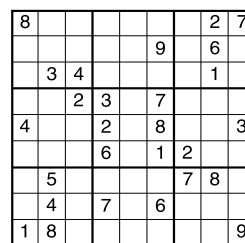
#### Across

6. Obtain (7)
7. Fumble (5)
9. Suitable (3)
10. Profitable (9)
12. Estimate (11)
15. Announcement (11)
17. Innumerable (9)
19. Assume (3)
21. Centre (5)
22. Skull (7)

#### Down

1. Pungent (5)
2. Flow (3)
3. Release (4)
4. Learning (9)
5. Promoter (7)
8. Knave (6)
11. Bravery (9)
13. Ring (6)
14. Get back (7)
16. Fashion (5)
18. Certain (4)
20. Conclude (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	3	1	4	6	2	8	5
2	4	1	5	7	8	9	3	6
6	5	8	2	3	4	1	7	9
9	7	4	8	3	5	6	2	1
8	3	2	7	6	1	5	4	9
5	1	6	4	2	9	3	7	8
1	6	9	3	8	4	7	5	2
4	8	7	9	5	2	1	6	3
3	2	5	6	1	7	8	9	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Beyond the pale; 8 Full stop; 9 Road; 10 Sapper; 12 Aslope; 14 Ascend; 16 Despot; 18 Etui; 20 Looked on; 22 Insignificant. Down: 1 Refusals; 2 Roll up; 3 Adit; 4 Whip-hand; 5 Spiral; 6 Plea; 11 Redolent; 13 Propound; 15 Elicit; 17 Sketch; 19 Tone; 21 Oats. QUICK - Across: 7 Unpretentious; 8 Cardinal; 9 Tier; 10 Agreed; 12 Sprite; 14 Trowel; 16 Dreary; 18 Pen; 20 Velocity; 22 In short supply. Down: 1 Endanger; 2 Bridge; 3 Stun; 4 Enclosed; 5 Bitter; 6 Cure; 11 Delivery; 13 Throttle; 15 Weight; 17 Escape; 19 Erne; 21 Last.

## Quiz

1. Which once widespread group of languages is divided into Brythonic and Goidelic groups?
2. Which band's first hit single was Seven Seas of Rhye?
3. Which king abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson?
4. Who wrote King Solomon's Mines in 1885?
5. Which gas was identified in the same year by both Priestley and Scheele?
6. On which Japanese city was the second atomic bomb dropped in 1945?
7. What is a leucocyte?
8. Which footballer received a fifteen-month worldwide ban after failing a drugs test at the 1994 World Cup?
9. Which bay separates Miami Beach from Miami?
10. Who won the 1995 US Masters at Augusta?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Klaus Barbie; 2 Jakarta; 3 Quod erat demonstrandum; 4 Cuckooflower; 5 Telstar; 6 Peruvian; 7 Charles I; 8 Lead; 9 Kolkata; 10 Fibrositis.  
Niner: PRACTISED

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1258 gives a servant,  
23946 gives a middleman,  
374124 gives a bandit.



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Glorious grub – the meatballs slathered in tomato sauce



Charming location tucked away at the end of a row of shops



Meat feast – the hot dog pizza has a generous amount of topping



Homely feel to the inside of Little Italy

# Quirky – but actually there is a lot to like at charming Little Italy

WHEN I saw the flyer, pinned to the village notice board, announcing that a new Italian restaurant was opening in the village, I was beyond excited.

For sure, we at Tettenhall already have Steve Bull's Bravaccio's, and mighty fine it is too, but something about the name of Little Italy told me that it was altogether more rustic, more homely.

Well, I've eaten at Little Italy now about 10 times, and I have to say it's extraordinary. Now, before I go any further, let me elaborate. It's not extraordinarily GOOD, however good it is. It's extraordinary as in bizarre. Extraordinary as in surreal.

It's run, cheffed and occasionally waited too by a swarthy (I pondered whether this

By Pete Cashmore

might be a tad racist but it's the only word for it) balding gentleman who has come to greet me as a friend. He's friendly. He's busy. One thing I'm not sure he is, is actually Italian. I just can't place the accent. That said, I found out that his name is Gino, so he might actually be.

It's not important – what is, is that it's an entirely unique experience. To explain what I mean, here are some of the toppings you CAN'T get for the pizzas – chicken, bacon, pepperoni, but surely that is THE default topping for pizzas – but not here. What you can get is sliced hot dog, and chicken tikka.

Furthermore, if you order one of these pizzas, you may well not end up with what you actually ordered. The hot dog pizza, for example, lists hot dog sausage as its only topping, which I would say is to be expected.

But if you don't specifically stipulate it, you'll end up with olives and onions as well, despite the fact that there are plenty of options on the menu where olives and onions are specifically stipulated in the toppings list. It's just baffling, and I for one love it!

## Perfection

My favourite thing about Little Italy is that our chef doesn't seem to realise that, once you have blasted a 12 inch deep pan to fluffy perfection – and their deep pans are, make no mistake about it, nudging perfection – then the pan itself has a tendency to be, you know, pretty hot.

And yet our intrepid host, for some reason, insists on slicing the pizza on the pan and picking up the pan to empty it into the box. And every time he does it, you can see that he's scalding his fingers. God love him! But the point at which you realise that Lit-

tle Italy is a bit special, is when you see the prices. Try these on for size.

Cans of soft drink (there is no alcohol served in Little Italy, although you can bring your own): 70p. Garlic bread: £1, £1.20 with a coating of mozzarella. Burger: £2.50. Tiramisu: £1.50.

Lasagne (and the lasagne at Little Italy is fabulous): £5.95. Throw in two meatballs: add another quid. Ice cream sundae composed of a selection of seven available flavours of high-quality Italian tackle: £3.

I know! You are, often literally, talking as cheap as chips – the most expensive item on the menu is steak, and that comes for the princely sum of £12.

Little Italy is not a fancy restaurant, it's rough and ready but it's in a charming location, tucked away at the end of a row of shops on the highest bit of Upper Green and you can eat outside if the feeling takes you.

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## A traditional five-bedroom detached house on elevated position has a high degree of privacy

An individual and traditional five-bedroom detached house on the edge of town, Norton Stepe, 89 Greyhound Lane, Norton, Stourbridge. is in a highly regarded area.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £419,950.

It is well placed for town centre amenities including train and bus stations, schooling of good repute, surrounding countryside and access to the wider West Midlands

**NORTON, STOURBRIDGE**  
**£419,950**

conurbation. The property stands elevated to the service road of Greyhound Lane and has a high degree of privacy.

It benefits from three reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, five bedrooms and a long, landscaped rear garden.

The rear garden features a large paved patio and extensive mature gardens with borders comprising a variety of established plants and shrubs and deciduous trees.

To the front of the property is a fore garden and driveway leading to the garage with the additional of further parking on the opposite side of the service road.

Contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066 or visit [www.leeshaw.com](http://www.leeshaw.com) website.



## Luxury two-bedroom apartment is located in an enviable setting within an exclusive development

In an enviable setting within the exclusive development of Westhill Court off Hagley Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, is a really lovely, well appointed, ground floor luxury two bedroom apartment with a host of features and quality fittings.

It is for sale through Taylors at £159,950.

With viewing strongly advised in order to fully appreciate just

**OLDSWINFORD**  
**£159,950**

how much it has to offer, the gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation is seen to briefly comprise a security intercom controlled communal hall/foyer, apartments own reception hall, a large sitting room with a broad opening to the splendid 'shaker

styled' dining kitchen, two good bedrooms with the master en-suite and a principle bathroom having a modern white suite.

It also comes with well managed communal gardens and grounds, with residents' allocated parking and visitor parking.

Contact the agents on 01384 395555 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk) website.

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**HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£850 pcm+Fees**  
A furnished to suit modern semi-detached house close to the Squirrels Estate, Halesowen Town Centre & buses to Birmingham This large house features 2 lovely reception rooms, fitted kitchen, private rear garden, large storage shed, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom suite with shower, driveway for 2/3 cars (garage not included) Ideal family home. EPC: C



**AMBLECOTE, High Street £775 pcm+Fees**  
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development, 'Crystal Gardens'. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. This property will not be available for long. Minimum contract 12 months. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Meadowbrook Road£725 pcm+Fees**  
Large 3 bed mcklow style semi-detached property features: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single, bathroom with shower, garage (storage only), private rear garden, driveway parking for multiple vehicles, gas central heating and double glazed. Ideally located for Huntingtree and Lutterly Primary School. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Wassell Road£725 pcm+Fees**  
A large unfurnished semi-detached house in central Halesowen which features: entrance porch, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, covered side entrance, private rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, large bathroom with shower over bath, garage & driveway. Also benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Mendip Road£725 pcm+Fees**  
A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Squirrels Estate in Halesowen/Hagley Green, being double glazed and centrally heated throughout. Being located on this popular estate the property would make an ideal family home and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, parking and garage. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Middlefield Avenue£650 pcm+Fees**  
Located in Hurst Green this unfurnished semi detached house comprising of 26ft through lounge/dining room, a fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and a further single. Benefits from a garage and driveway with low maintenance garden has a very popular area. Viewings highly recommended. EPC: B



**CRADLEY HEATH, Surfeit Hill Road£625 pcm+Fees**  
A fully refurbished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large lounge/diner with access to the garden, modern fitted kitchen, shower room, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Beaumont Road£575 pcm+Fees**  
Ideally located in Blackheath for local amenities, train station close by and the M5. This large 2 double bedroom end terrace house features 2 reception rooms with 1 reception having slate flooring and a working wood burner, fitted kitchen, utility room with washing machine, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, court yard rear garden, on road parking and off road parking available for 1 car plus garage (accessed from Clifton Road). EPC: B



**WORDSLEY, Wordsley Court£575 pcm+Fees**  
1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen, shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



**ROWLEY REGIS, Mount Road£575 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished semi detached family home in a popular location, briefly comprising of: 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, spacious living room, kitchen, guest wc, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens and driveway parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Bethesda Gardens£550 pcm+Fees**  
Located on this new build estate is this modern ground floor apartment, coming unfurnished, briefly comprising of: 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, modern bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with white goods, open plan spacious lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. A must view property. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Silverthorne Lane£525 pcm+Fees**  
A really well presented modern style 2 bedroom house close to Cradley Heath Train Station and bus links. Lounge with fireplace, large fitted kitchen with new oven/hob, patio doors to rear garden, upstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. Minimum 12 month contract. EPC: C



**KIDDERMINSTER, Patin House£515 pcm+Fees**  
A 1 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house comprising of: porch, lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite work tops, double bedroom, fully tiled bathroom with shower, study, gas central heating (under floor heating to kitchen & bathroom) double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. Available Now! EPC: B



**CRADLEY HEATH, Seedhouse Court£495 pcm+Fees**  
Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, an unfurnished ground floor apartment features 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£475 pcm+Fees**  
Situating within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham City Centre. This well presented 1 double bedroom ground floor apartment features a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, house bathroom with shower, cosy lounge, double glazing, gas central heating and 1 allocated parking space. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Walton Court£450 pcm+Fees**  
A spacious 1st floor flat surrounded by maintained communal gardens in a popular location. Comprises entrance hall with storage cupboard, double bedroom, fitted kitchen with marble effect work surface, separate utility room, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower over bath and shed. Available End of August/September. Garage not included. EPC: B



**NETHERTON, Halesowen Road£495 pcm+Fees**  
A distinctive unfurnished detached nailer's cottage style home, briefly comprising of: 2 cosy reception rooms with feature Arga, 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, original Laura Ashley downstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking, front and rear gardens. EPC: E



**CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£440 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: G



**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£425 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished ground floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local train station. The property features: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



**STOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street£425 pcm+Fees**  
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**HALESOWEN, Cobham Road£425 pcm+Fees**  
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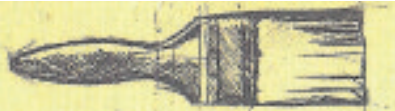
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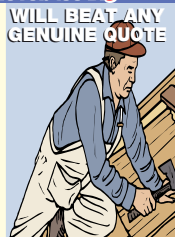
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**CATHY** attractive 35yr singleton, varied interests, looking for trustworthy male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423231 ☎

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

**SARAH** 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423093 ☎

**KIM**, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

**LOVELY** Oriental lady in Carmarthenshire seeks older man 70+ to share company and special times and to be a partner. Text only Mailbox: 5506384

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**RETIRED** happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411459

**KERRY**, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363

**LADY**, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422679 ☎

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

**JANE**, very attractive blonde, own house in lovely village, car, etc, loves travel to sunny places, entertaining, exercise. WLTm male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

**ATTRACTIVE** energetic mature lady, looking for well-travelled, solvent companion for holidays, dining out and days away. Text only Mailbox: 5502846

**WENDY**, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605

**BROWN** eyed brummie female 65 smoker likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTm male 66 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5501142

**JESS**, pretty blonde lady. 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Text Only Box: 4000683

**MATURE** female 63, large breasted, seeks assertive younger man 30-50 for adult fun. Must be discreet. Text only Mailbox: 5495834

**KATRIANA**, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves Plan of all ages. Please text me for a chat. Text Only Box 4148978

**SINGLE** tall blonde, 30yrs, bored of life's mundane routines, looking for some discreet fun with likeminded man, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423089 ☎

**CAROL**, 44, brunette with plenty of spare time on her hands seeks special mature male for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423057 ☎

**SARAH** 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423093 ☎

**ALISON** 28, feminine, outgoing, adventurous brunette who knows what she wants, seeks fit, fun loving man to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423061 ☎

**JOANNA**, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

## Customer support

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**SABINA**, 35, outgoing attractive brunette, fit and carefree just looking for fun times without complications, maybe more later. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423003 ☎

**EILEEN** 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423007 ☎

**YOUNG**, big boobed, single mum. Looking for a fun guy, but wants to be spoiled. Relationship ideally but happy with no strings fun. Text only Mailbox: 5496828

**ATTRACTIVE** slim 54yr old female looking for caring genuine male 50-58 yrs to wine and dine with, share nice times with, please get in touch. Text only Mailbox: 5395965

**TINA**, 41, WLTm Muslim men, Indian Pakistani Kurdish or Turkish for daytime or evening fun, can accommodate, can travel, very discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422927

**JACKIE**, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422257 ☎

**MANDY** 44, fun fiery blonde, petite size 6-8, gorgeous green eyes seeks special male for friendship and uncomplicated love. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422863 ☎



**FEMALE**, 33, blue eyes, long blonde hair, pretty, slim, looking for Asian man to have some discreet no strings fun with. Text only Mailbox: 5495296

**GILL**, 61, slim dark eyed blonde seeks tall carefree male who is looking for someone special for fun times with no complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422843 ☎

**CILLA**, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTm male who appreciates my interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422009 ☎

**SINGLE** 40s, seeks Indian Pakistani Kurdish males, for no strings, day or evening fun, I am discreet, I can travel and I can accommodate. Midlands/Stoke on Trent. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422921 ☎

**ANNE**, 40, pretty professional fun female with great curves, looking for fun and romance with down to earth male looking for similar. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422711 ☎

**JEAN**, 75, black hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes dancing, singing, gardening, bingo, meals out, days out, Scotland. WLTm a gentleman any age for company and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422651 ☎

**JACKIE** 40, slim brunette, with sLTRY green eyes seeks tall guy with nice eyes who understands women, for some really good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422819 ☎

**AFRICAN** lady, 45 yrs, 5ft 8, slim, sensual, creative, interesting, looking for NSA fun with a man of means. Must be non smoker. Text only Mailbox: 5475056

**RITA** 41, exotic blonde skinned female, friendly, chatty, loves to entertain, seeks loving honest male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422723 ☎

**PETRIANA**, 44, very attractive, voluptuous blonde, with old fashioned values, seeks romantic down to earth male for a special relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422717 ☎

**LUCY** 37yrs 5ft 11ins brunette, loves nightlife, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422455 ☎

**EMMA** 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422443 ☎

**BARBARA**, 49, attractive green eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meals out etc, looking for genuine caring male up to 65yr for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422439 ☎

**SARA** 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422541 ☎

**SARAH**, brown hair, dark eyes, likes crafts, cooking, cinema, socialising, looking for a male friend, 30-35, possibly leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422589 ☎

**JEAN**, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things, WLTm local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422571 ☎

**JOANNE**, 48, curvy black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422633 ☎

**JO** 45, hardworking nurse with crazy sense of humour, looking for fun male with plenty of ideas to spice up her spare time. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422545 ☎

**SARA** 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422541 ☎

**LORNA** 28, sensual blue eyed blonde with a beautiful smile, seeking intelligent guy in good shape for new experiences and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422491 ☎

**MICHELLE**, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422459 ☎

**BIRMINGHAM** female 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTm male 66 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5474599

**70 years** young attractive caring genuine lady, seeks honest reliable man for friendship days out and poss LTR. Bristol/Bath area. Text only Mailbox: 4648891

**PAT**, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422393 ☎

**RITA**, seeks a genuine male for friendship days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422403 ☎

**MERRY**, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422339 ☎

**BARBARA**, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422411 ☎

**50YRS**, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422466 ☎

**LOVELY** lady, inside and out, very caring, loving nature, likes music, days out, countryside, poetry, long walks, meals in and out, looking for a gentleman, 65-80. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422525

**CARING**, honest female, WLTm genuine gentleman for LTR in the West Midlands area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422111 ☎

**NICOLA** 32yr old slim sexy single mum looking for fun times maybe with similar open-minded uncomplicated companion. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422487 ☎

**MATURE** male seeking fun times, Coventry area. Text only Mailbox: 4830151

**EDDIE**, young looking 54, painter and decorator by trade, likes going out and having a good time, sport and all kinds of music, looking for a LTR with a caring, honest, trustworthy person, as I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423113 ☎

**47 year** old guy, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423105

**IRISH** widower, 65, 5ft9, GSOH, WLTm a lady for friendship in the North Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423071 ☎

**IRISH** male, 60s, 5ft9, independent, n/s, wishes to meet a lady in the Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423073 ☎

**DAVE**, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, and caring female, 45-65, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423073 ☎

**TALL**, attractive male, 62, GSOH, enjoys the normal things in life, going out to staying in, holidays etc, seeks lovely active petfriendly lady, 62-72, for an nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422931

## Single Men

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**SHAUN**, short black hair, mixed race, 5ft7, average build, looking for a lady, looks not important but a great personality is a must! Hanley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423107 ☎

**JIMBO**, friendly fun loving chap, 42yrs, own building company. Divorced, no kids. Wants a kind caring lady to spoil, any age, single mums welcome. Text Only Box: 4036422

**IAN**, 5ft8, medium build, och, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, with similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 421345

**MEDIUM** build male, single, enjoys days out, country pubs and keep fit looking for a soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423189 ☎

**ADVENTUROUS** 36 year old male, dark hair, slim, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417235 ☎

**MATURE**, passionate male, 30s WLTm a lady, grab the chance while I am single! Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423195 ☎

**JOE**, semi retired, young looking and acting, slim and fit, 5ft6, considered good company, looking for daytime meets. Let's see if we click. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422803 ☎

**MATURE** male seeking fun times, Coventry area. Text only Mailbox: 4830151

**EDDIE**, young looking 54, painter and decorator by trade, likes going out and having a good time, sport and all kinds of music, looking for a LTR with a caring, honest, trustworthy person, as I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423113 ☎

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**TALL**, attractive male, 62, GSOH, enjoys the normal things in life, going out to staying in, holidays etc, seeks lovely active petfriendly lady, 62-72, for an nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422931



**SEMI** retired businessman, early 60s, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent, very discreet. WLTm a female, 35-55, married or single, for winning, dining daytime fun. West Midlands or Staffs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422805

**MARK**, genuine male, 52, considered attractive, home owner, well travelled, likes keeping fit, looking for a lady for my soul mate, first time advertiser. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422935

**ANDY**, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422893 ☎

**RETIRED** male, caring person, looking for friendship. I am into music and I am quite witty. I also like going out on a Saturday night! Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422847 ☎

**GENUINE** male, 52, attractive, home owner, well travelled, loves live music, keeping fit, first time advertiser, hoping to find a soul mate, 35-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422933 ☎

**MALE**, 5ft9, medium build, likes sports, WLTm a lady for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422747 ☎



**LIKEABLE** easy going honest white male, slim build, likes sport, country walks, music, theatre, pubs, eating out WLTm attractive lady for friendship/relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5489438

**NICK**, 41, 5ft7, Taurus, n/s, handsome, likes keeping fit, seeks female 30-40s, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421863 ☎

**GUY** WLTm attractive smart lady, likes a dance or 2 and enjoys days out. Text only Mailbox: 4823044

**MALE** 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422409

**MALE**, 50s, tall, attractive, seeks mature female, 40-70, for mutual spanking. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422429

**ALAN**, 49, genuine, builder, 6ft, six pack, GSOH, likes a laugh, lives in Coventry, wishes to meet a woman of my age for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422755 ☎

**VERY** broadminded male, looking for some adult fun with a hot sexy female, any age, preferably broadminded too. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422823 ☎

**SEMI** retired businessman, early 60s, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent, very discreet. WLTm a female, 35-55, married or single, for winning, dining daytime fun. West Midlands or Staffs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422805

**TALL**, attractive, Shrewsbury male, 57, WLTm an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement, aca. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422801 ☎

**MIKE**, 50, tall, brown hair, happy go lucky and ready for anything, seeking a soul mate for good times ahead, West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422799 ☎

**SINGLE** male 50 medium build looking for someone to show me the ropes age between 60 - 85, txt only. Text only Mailbox: 5423010

**MALE** 42 yr old man seeking woman, voluptuous, 50+ lady for naughty NSA fun. Colour, race etc unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 5480459

**SHAUN**, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover



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- 10 Personals

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**2**

## Leisure Time

### bikes

**THORN CLUB** tour 533S, 21 1/2 inch, manual bicycle, metallic blue, £700, 01902 674442.

### caravans / motorhomes

**A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW** Caravans 35x12 DG & CH from £15,000. 11 month holiday season. 01584823433. [www.bcpark.co.uk](http://www.bcpark.co.uk)

**ACE PRESTIGE** 4 berth, 2004, end bathroom, separate shower/toilet, sunroof, blow heating, all mod cons, fully equipped with awning and extras, immaculate condition, £3,800. 01299 251018.

**KAMPA RALEIGH PRO** plus awning, excellent condition with ground sheet £150. 07790 841177 or 01384 863305.

**OUTDOOR REVOLUTION** Oxygen 3, Air awning, 2014. Used twice in excellent condition. Cost £840 will accept £400. Cannock 01543 324013.

**STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10** 6-berth with decking, Mid Wales. Site fees paid for 2016. Dog friendly. £4,250 only. 07922 351352 No texts

**TUDOR AMBASSADOR** Static caravan with decking area. 1994 model located at Hampton Lodge. 35ft x 12ft 2 bed. Residential site open all year. £15,000 only. Call David 07514 505818.



**WILLBERBY STATIC**  
Holiday home in rural Mid Wales.

Superb condition. Lounge/diner, kitchen, 2 bed, shower, toilet, on small owner only park. Ideal mature couple.

Fees paid to April 2017. £6,950.  
Telephone 01591 610625.

### caravans wanted

**WANTED ALL CARAVANS**  
Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.  
**CALL THOMAS 07776373150**

**CARAVAN WANTED** Cash on pick up asap.  
Caravan wanted.  
Call me on 07717090817

### fishing

**FISHING TACKLE WANTED** anything considered. New or Old 01902 754011 or 07931 568716

### jumble sales / fetes

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR**  
Sunday 24th July  
**KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
DY7 6ER  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

### music shop

**STEVE REINER** Classical guitar with hard case, great quality, excellent condition. £700 only. 07802 620770 / 01902 661435.

### sports & leisure

## Free Ads

**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY**  
For items up to £250.  
Online at  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**TREADMILL PRO-Fitness**. Electric. Was £200 now. 2 yrs old. Rare use. £100 only. Must dismantle & collect. Stourbridge. 01384 371505.

### holidays

### self catering holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
Self Catering Holiday Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
**01278 794111**  
[www.GoSomerset.co.uk](http://www.GoSomerset.co.uk)

**BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET** On 4\* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. Last minute school holidays £350pw 1 October £140 pw 1 07974 226 928.

### what's on

### markets

**STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT**  
At Stourbridge Rugby Club  
Open every Wednesday  
from 18th May  
**07957 399964**

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET**  
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY  
Banks' Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6  
07889 975701 All hard standing

**3**

## Home & Services

### carpets & furnishings

**NEUTRAL WOOL** Carpet plus quality underlay. Immaculate 3m x 3m. 3m x 3.4m. £50. 01902 896913.

### furniture

**CIRCULAR 1.1M** solid oak kitchen table (extendable 1.4m), 580 Four dining chairs, very good condition, wood, £100. 01299 823321.

**SOFA** Two matching chairs, M&S. Immaculate, neutral colour. £250. 01902 896913.

### items for sale

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**DXR8TE RADIO** receiver, as new, still with receipt, £400 only. 01384 211920.

**TENT**, large, 6 berth, top quality, never used, new, £145. Large roof box, £75. 01902 341611.

### items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY**  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER  
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Jade • Old coins • Jewellery • Old costume • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings • All SILVER • All Oriental Items • Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc. ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING  
**01922 495066 or 07971 783206**

### A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
**01384 836219/07891 713547.**  
[thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

### kitchens & bathrooms

**KITCHEN COMPLETE**, MEDIUM oak units New extractor existing cooker, hob, sink unit £295 only 01902 754359

### photography & camcorders

**CANON 70D SLR** Camera, Immaculate. 90-300mm lens. Monopod. With many accessories / software / leads. £595. o.n.o. 07855 103494.

### t.v. / home entertainment

### service

**AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS**: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D LED, Projection. All areas covered 6 till late 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

### specialists at your service

### gardening services

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

**FREE UP SPACE**  
GARAGES AND SHEDS CLEARED  
Call: 07956 391885

### aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90  
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE  
Work Guaranteed  
**01902 858191**  
**01384 429166**  
**01543 439095**  
**01922 716029**  
**07833 738857**

### alarms/security

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

### carpet & upholstery cleaning

**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
OAP discount. Recession Prices.  
Unbeatable Value. Rooms cleaned from £10  
Call Paul 07870 341089

### gas fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED** To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

### fencing

**Classified Ads**  
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

**PORTWAY FENCING**

## IT WORKS FOR ME

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"

**Michael - Portway Fencing.**

**FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191**

Brought to you by Express & Star

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
10 years of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards, HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED  
**0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656**  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Parkway Rd, W.bury  
**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

**Tidy Fencing**  
Professional Fence Fitters & Gardeners  
Established 2001  
We are fully insured  
NPTC qualified and all work comes with a 12 month warranty.  
**SPECIAL RATES** available to senior citizens.  
No job too small.  
**BIG SPRING DISCOUNT** NOW AVAILABLE

Shed refelts now available!  
**01384 620 072**  
**07908 478 962**

### house clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID**  
for house clearances and bereavements. Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances. Also removals undertaken. All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held  
**07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

### painters / decorators

**DECORATOR**  
ALL domestic work undertaken  
Reliable & Affordable  
Special rates for OAPs  
No job too SMALL  
Call **07957 346 059**

### plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES**. For All Your Home and Garden Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience. Call Mark or Sara on 07741 770597.

### removals

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, flat/house removals/clearances local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

**CALL DEAN NOW**: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830670 / 01384 840260.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN**. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

### MR BEE REMOVALS

**FROM £20 P/H**  
MEN WITH VANS FOR REMOVALS. SINGLE ITEMS, HOUSES, FLATS, OFFICES & CLEARANCE. (FULLY INSURED)  
**07583 91 46 39**  
**07776 911 411**  
[mrbeereovals@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mrbeereovals@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.mrbeereovals.com](http://www.mrbeereovals.com)

### Stourbridge Removals

**20+ YEARS EXP**  
Home, Office, Part loads, landlord clean & repair service. House clearances. Quality service guaranteed lowest rates  
Call John - 07802 876 876 office - 01562 640 640

### roofing

**T L Fowkes Roofing & Building Solutions**  
FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST call or email  
[t.fowkes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:t.fowkes@yahoo.co.uk)  
Experts in all roofing and building aspects including:  
• Flat roofing • GRP roofing • Slate and tile roofing • uPVC and all major building works  
**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

### skip hire

**BLITZ SKIPS**  
AFFORDABLE SKIPS  
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE  
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM  
**01902 870370**  
**0121 517 1111**

**Classified Ads**  
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

**GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE**

## IT WORKS FOR ME

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!  
It definitely works for us!

**Grinsells Skip Hire.**

**FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191**

Brought to you by Express & Star

**GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD.** Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast, friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Monday to 0121 555 6060.

**4**

## Pets & Animals

### equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

### guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

**WEBLEY AND SCOTT** bolt action shot gun, 4.10. Offers  
Box Number P20443, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

### pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:  
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**AMERICAN COCKER** Spaniel pup, 11wks, KC reg, health checked, vaccinated, chipped, wormed, male, black, white chest markings. £650. 07974 749908.

**FERRIS** Gills and Hobs, only £4 each. 07768 899924.

**JACK RUSSELL** puppies, microchipped, vet checked, injections. £260. 01384 233910.



# ClassifiedAds

01902 317878 | classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

**MABEL**  
14 year old loving tabby female cat, looking for a new home, suit retired persons or someone living alone.  
**07847 360784.**

**MARINE FISH TANK**  
full set up and stand, everything you ever wanted, no fish, 2 years old, cost £2,600.  
**Offers.**  
Telephone 01384 639160.

**TOY POODLE X** Shih Tzu puppies, (Shihpoo's) 2 girls £550 each 2 boys £500 each, 07734 208600.

**YORKIE PUPS** two boys, £350 each one girl £375, ready now. Puppy pack included. 07710 555932.

**6 X 3FT AVIARY PANELS**, all as new, unused, £19.50 each. Possible delivery. 07904 938864.

**vets**

**Express & Star**

**THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS**

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

**5 Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

**6 Property**

**mobile homes**

**FOR SALE 2 BED PARK HOME**  
At Homeland Park, Ball Lane, Coven Heath, Nr. Wolverhampton, WV10 7EZ.  
Price reduced for a quick sale.  
**Details 07983 431475.**



**MOBILE HOME FOR SALE**  
Harrows mobile home park, well cared for gardens, also well maintained unit, including shed and green house, also has its own car parking space, situated on a good bus route.  
**Price region, £70,000**  
For more details ring  
**01902 798548.**

**properties wanted**

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price**

**We buy any house**

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

**WE ALSO BUY LAND**

**0800 999 999 6**  
or 01902 628047 24/7 [www.black-countryhomes.co.uk](http://www.black-countryhomes.co.uk)

**Need to sell your home fast?**

**We can help you make a fresh start**

With solutions to suit... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

**MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**

**WHY NOT CALL US TODAY**

for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

**0121 405 0797**

**Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS**

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED  
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT  
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS  
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE  
LOCAL COMPANY

\*Terms and Conditions apply

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

**Home Cash Buyer**

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**

**Houses / Land Required**

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)

**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**BRIDGNORTH** 2 bed furnished flat with parking, Kings Loade area £550pcm. 07530 401557

**CASTLECROFT, WV3.** Clean 1 bed flat, new kitchen, CH, DG, £105pw. 01902 340073 or 07770 660636.

**COUNTRY FLAT** 1-bed nr Penkridge furnished. No Smoking-Pets, £425, pcm. 07808 640512. From Aug 1st

**PROFESSIONAL ROOM** lets, from £75pw, inc bills.  
House Mates 07974 421715.

**SELF CONTAINED** flatlet, Lower Gornal, own amenities, recent refurbish, suit single mature person. Call 07715 603357.

**SMART ROOMS** in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

**overseas property**

**NOTICE TO READERS** Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**8 Motoring**

**cars over £1500**



**BMW M-SPORT 320D**  
2006, metallic black, suede/cloth interior, coded bumpers/grill, 18ins alloys, MoT October, tinted windows, 129k, fantastic condition, fsh.  
**£4,300 ono.**  
Telephone 07871 876646.

**TOYOTA AVENSIS**  
2007, 59,000 miles, black, fsh, long MoT, diesel. All luxury refinements.  
**£3,750.**  
**07970 212476.**

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** Convertible 1.8 Exclusive. 2005. In grey with black half leather seats, 86k, FSH, 2 keys. £1,850. 07831 60256

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** Estate 1.6, 2008, 71,000 miles, MoT until March 2016, very good condition, £2,300. 07966 745797.

**VAUXHALL CORSA** 1.4SE, 2012, 26,000 miles, blue, 5 door, air con, fsh, long MoT, cruise control, alloys, £5,250 ono. 07817 970364.

**VW GOLF**  
1.4, 2001 in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, new cam belt, water pump, breaks, coloyours, Audi TT wheels, excellent condition.  
**£1,650 ono.**  
**01902 306544 / 07814 336980.**

**YAMAHA MT125 ABS**, 2015, excellent condition, 2,400 miles, race blu, FSH, screen/tank bag £2,950. 07810 870538. Kingswinford.

**cars under £1500**

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**  
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**DAEWOO MATIZ** 2005, 5dr, 33,000 miles, 9 months MoT, silver, 2 lady owners, very good condition, £600. Tetterhall 07974 311116.

**FIAT PUNTO** 1.2, 52,000 miles, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, new MoT. Very good condition. 4 new tyres, 5-dr. £695. o.n.o. 07754 557861.

**FORD FIESTA** 1.25, Style, silver, alloy wheels, two lady owners, excellent condition. Economical. £1,400. 07739 420749.

**FORD KA SPORT 1.6SE**  
2008, blue, 3 door, MoT February 2017, 49,000 miles, 2 tone leather upholstery, fsh, 2 owners, a/c, stereo.  
**£1,150.**  
**01562 883891 (Hagley).**

**HONDA CIVIC** 1.4 MAX, 02 reg, MoT April 2017, 107,446 miles, £500 ono.  
Telephone 01902 458858.

**MAZDA MX5**  
1996, 98,000 miles, reg P515RUV, British Racing Green MoT Sep, on sorn, garaged.  
**£300 ono.**  
**01384 823828**  
or text 07794 693587.

**MAZDA MX5** 1999, 98,000 miles, blue, 1.6L, abs, air bag, MoT, alloys, CD, soft top, service history, 2 owners, £700 ono.  
01384 232586.

**RELIABLE CAR**

**NISSAN MICRA**  
2002, 45,000 miles, metallic blue, air bag, fsh, 12 months MoT, metallic paint, central locking, sunroof, stereo, CD, regularly serviced.  
**£750.**  
**07967 411425.**

**PEUGEOT 206**, Silver (51 reg), 58,800 miles. Good condition. Full MoT. £800. o.n.o. 07889 953043

**PEUGEOT 206 VERVE**, 2003 (52), 5DR, 1124cc, silver, MoT 7.4.17 only 73k, EW, CL, CD, FSH, good condition, £675. 07977 458068.

**PEUGEOT 208 1.4cc Sports**, 2005, 2dr, silver, MoT, alloys CD, Good condition, £750. 07842 792847

**RENAULT CLIO DCI**, 2004, 100,000 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, MoT, central locking, sunroof, CD, private reg, £750 ono. 07478 712913.

**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE** 2001, 74,000 miles, Silver, electric windows, MOT Nov. Reliable clean car. £500 ono. 01902 256280.

**RENAULT GRANDE** Scenic, 7 seater, 2005, silver, 60,000 miles, fully serviced Dec 2015, MoT Dec 2016, £699 ono. 01902 256280.

**SEAT IBIZA** 53 plate, silver, 40,000 miles, FSH, MoT Feb 2017, one owner from new, £1,250. 07956 688552.

**TOYOTA YARIS** 1.3VVT1  
2004, 41,584 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, Stereo,  
**£1,495.**  
**01902 843902**

**VAUXHALL ASTRA**, 1992, 61,000 miles, maroon, alarm, long MoT, golden oldie! Clean and tidy. Perfect first car. £475.  
07743 445459.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** California, L reg, 60,000 miles, many new parts, 12 months MoT, £2000 ono. 07865 290473.

**VAUXHALL CORSA** 1.2 2001, green, 98k miles, PAS, CD, CL, long MoT, clean car, drives great, £650 o.n.o. 07956 882868.

**VAUXHALL MERIVA** 1.7 TDi  
2004, 80,000 miles, spares or repair, many new parts, good condition in and out, long MoT.  
**£650 o.n.o.**  
First to see will buy.  
**07904 127371.**

**VW GOLF** 1.6 petrol, 03, 67,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, EW, excellent condition, first to see will buy, £1,275 ono. 07542 146679.

**classic cars**

**MORRIS MINOR** 1000, 1970. Good running order, Solid body work and chassis. MoT Oct 2016. £2,150. o.n.o. 01902 338537.

**WANTED, CLASSIC CARS.** Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

**driving tuition**

**10 Hours £891 Five Hours £501**  
**2 Hours £201 All Areas Covered**  
ADI/POI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10  
**07432 450100 / 01562 870660**  
**01384 234864 / 0121 5840090**  
01902 580065 [www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk](http://www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk)

**motorbikes**

**HONDA CX400 EURO SPORT**  
1993, Trike, in very good condition. £2,250 Genuine callers only.  
07925 251177.

**YAMAHA DT125R** Y reg, 11 months MoT, good for age, various upgrades, mature owner, £1,245 ono. Call after 5pm 07914 903631.

**scrap vehicles**

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**MCB**  
**TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS**  
**Tel: 01902 408176**  
**1000's of parts available at all times**  
**MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ**

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE**  
**WANTED URGENT**  
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available  
**0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.** Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

**vehicles wanted**

**alan reed cars**  
Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid, HP settled. Buyer could call.  
**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

**WANTED, 50cc motor cycle or scooter, non runner considered, Dudley area.** 01384 850838.

**9 Local Information**

**public & legal notices**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**  
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to  
**Marie Hogg on 01902 713146**  
or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)  
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)  
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# World first with three electrified powertrains

By James Parker

Hyundai Motor UK has announced the pricing and specification of IONIQ, the world's first car to offer three electrified powertrains. IONIQ will go on sale in the UK in October.

Prices will start from £19,995 for the IONIQ Hybrid SE 1.6 GDi, which includes standard features such as 15" alloy wheels, DAB with Bluetooth, Cruise Control and Rear Parking Sensors with Rear View Camera. Standard safety features include Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB), Lane Keep Assist System (LKAS) and individual Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).

IONIQ Hybrid Premium 1.6 GDi, from £21,795, provides additional equipment over the SE, including keyless entry with push button start, heated front seats, heated steering wheel, Bi-Xenon headlamps with LED rear combination lamps and a driver's supervision instrument cluster with 7" LCD display.

Integrated satellite navigation with TomTom Live services, an Infinity audio system with Android Auto / Apple CarPlay and Wireless Phone Charging (where supported) also feature as standard.

From £23,595, IONIQ Hybrid Premium SE 1.6 GDi models benefit from enhanced comfort equipment such as leather seats with heated/ventilated front seats and heated outer rear seats, heated leather steering wheel and a driver power seat with Integrated Memory System. Blind Spot Detection with Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Front Parking Assist and optional 17" alloy wheels round off this range topping trim.

## Colours

IONIQ Hybrid is available in seven different exterior colours: Phantom Black, Polar White, Platinum Silver, Iron Grey, Demitasse Brown, Marina Blue and Phoenix Orange. The lava stone interior trim features blue accents throughout the cabin and control surfaces.

IONIQ Electric prices start from £28,995 for the Premium specification, mirroring Hybrid Premium, with specific equipment including Automatic Windscreen Wipers with Rain Sensor, 16" alloy wheels, LED headlamps and rear combination lamps and Advanced Smart Cruise Control. Integrated satellite navigation is standard across the IONIQ Electric range.

IONIQ Electric Premium SE, available from £30,795 again mirrors Hybrid Premium SE specification, with standard equipment such as leather seats with heated/ventilated front and heated rear seats, heated leather steering wheel and a driver power seat with Integrated Memory System, Blind Spot Detection, front Parking Sensors and EV specific 16" alloy wheels.

IONIQ Electric is expected to receive eligibility for the Plug-in Car Grant, enabling customers to potentially receive a £4,500 grant towards the purchase of the vehicle.

All IONIQ Electric feature standard rapid charge capability, ensuring an 80 per cent charge capability in just 33 minutes from a 50kW CCS Combo Rapid public charger, whilst a standard ICCB Charging Cable will allow charging from a domestic three pin supply. IONIQ Electric also features adjustable regenerative braking, via steering column mounted paddles, maximising driver engagement and enhancing efficiency.

## Network

IONIQ Hybrid will be available across the Hyundai dealership network from October 13, with IONIQ Electric initially available from a selected network of 27 dealerships, with full network rollout from 2017.

All IONIQ models come with Hyundai's industry-leading 5 Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package, with the additional high voltage battery cover of 8 years / 125,000 miles.

IONIQ Plug-In Hybrid 1.6 GDi prices and specifications will be announced prior to the on sale date in 2017.

Tony Whitehorn, President and CEO Hyundai Motor UK said: "The all-new Hyundai IONIQ is the world's first car offering three electrified powertrains and it will make low-to-zero-emission mobility more accessible to more people. Hyundai's innovative approach delivers an uncompromising design and driving experience, the latest connectivity and safety features with an enhanced industry-leading warranty package.

"It is also an important milestone in our sustainability strategy, bringing innovative technologies to the market and extending the company's product range of low-to-zero emission vehicles, which already includes the world's first mass-produced fuel-cell electric vehicle, the ix35 Fuel Cell."

Hyundai Motor UK has also announced that POD Point will be the preferred charging partner for customer domestic charge point installations, as well as points across the Hyundai UK dealer network and Hyundai Motor UK facilities.



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## New Black Edition SV for Nissan Qashqai

Nissan is introducing the stylish new 'Black Edition' to the Qashqai line-up. A new flagship specification for the range, the Black Edition is the first special version of Qashqai available since the model was launched in 2013. Offered in a limited production run, the Black Edition is on sale now and priced from £27,310 on-the-road.

Based on the generously equipped Tekna grade, Black Edition enhancements include 19" Black Ibis alloy wheels, Pearl Black metallic paint, front and rear styling plates and 'Black Edition' badged door entry guards.

The model also gains the sleek Panoramic Roof with one-touch shade, making it the only Qashqai with a glass roof as standard – typically a £400 option on Tekna models.

Nissan's suite of advanced safety and driver assist systems – collectively known as Nissan Safety Shield – are included on the car as standard. These include lane departure warning, high beam assist, traffic sign recognition, forward emergency braking, blind spot warning, moving object detection and driver attention alert.

Additional specification includes full black leather upholstery, intelligent park assist, bi-LED headlights and the state-of-the-art NissanConnect infotainment system. Based around an integrated seven-inch high-resolution touchscreen, it includes DAB digital radio and satellite navigation. Nissan's pioneering 360° Around View Monitor – to help with low-speed manoeuvres – is also fitted as standard.

The Qashqai Black Edition is powered by the frugal yet refined dCi 110 6-speed manual 2WD, which delivers 70.6mpg combined fuel economy and CO2 emissions of just 103g/km.

Kieran McMenamin, section manager for Qashqai at Nissan Motors GB Ltd., commented: "Top-grade Tekna versions represent around one in three Qashqai purchases and recent reveals like the Qashqai Premium Concept identify a desire and demand for Qashqai to extend towards the higher end of the segment.

"As a new flagship for the range, the Black Edition is the definitive statement for Qashqai – luxury styling and generous specification but maintaining an accessible price point. In fact, at just £450 more than the equivalent Tekna, the model represents around £1200 in savings compared with individual Option prices on Tekna models."

The multi-award-winning Qashqai's impressive quality, styling and innovative technologies continue to make it the best-selling crossover in Europe. Since production began in 2013, a new Qashqai has been built every 62 seconds, or 58 per hour, at the plant in Sunderland, UK. In September 2015 the Nissan Qashqai became the fastest ever UK-built vehicle to smash the half million production mark.

To find out more visit [www.nissan.co.uk](http://www.nissan.co.uk)



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Coach Richie Carter puts Ryan Cotterell through his paces



George Murrin has been at the club for more than 40 years



Bobby Speed, aged 12, and Lewis Morris, 14, during a sparring session



Richie Carter with club trustees Gary Bate and Nick Griffiths

# Young boxing hopefuls get Carter treatment

**RICHIE Carter has joined forces with Wolverhampton Boxing Club in a move that will double the fight factory's numbers.**

He's returning to his roots at their Willenhall Road site after starring as a youngster at national level himself as an unpaid fighter.

Hailing from nearby East Park, Carter represented the now-defunct Bilston outfit that his late father Alan ran and claimed a full national title in the 1987 junior ABA competition.

He then boxed for England before turning pro at middleweight, featuring another 12 times with 10 wins and just one loss before hanging up his gloves in 1992.

He returned to the sport 20 years later to form his own club, Richie Carter's Golden Gloves, which was based in Essington before moving to Wolverhampton.

A fire that gutted the Bushbury Weights and Fitness Centre, where they were tenants, in May left him and his members homeless.

## Impetus

Now 45, Carter is hoping to bring further impetus to a new-look regime, with his fighters set to double the carded combatants ahead of the new season.

The coaching staff will also multiply, with Wolverhampton BC – the oldest club in the city having celebrated its 80th birthday – looking to get busy again after a period of mourning.

Former president, secretary and treasurer John Thomas passed away last September. The 77-year-old had served for 40 years and was regarded as their front of house.

His memory lives on, as does the heritage of the club. Apart from Wolves, it is the only organisation permitted to use the City of Wolverhampton crest.

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Birch

***"This was an easy choice and something to get excited about. It's a challenge for me."***

Carter, who has become a successful businessman and a married father-of-two since calling time on fighting, feels proud to be given the opportunity to help lead the club into the future.

He said: "To be honest, I felt like jacking it all in when our gym burned down. My lads have had to train all over the shop.

"Me and the trustees at Wolverhampton got in touch through mutual friends. We had a meeting and it's all gone on from there.

"This was an easy choice and something to get excited about. It's a challenge for me. This is one of the oldest boxing establishments going.

"I want to do them justice and that means getting champions out of here in the near future. I know myself how hard it is to run a boxing club now and many hands make light work. At points, I never had the time to coach.

"I haven't yet proved how good I can be. I've been to the top and I wanted to take others there. Now I can concentrate on getting these lads and this club back to where it belongs.

"I'm Wolverhampton through and through, everyone knows me around here and I hope I'll get a good

response from the local people. I loved 'Tommo', as we all did. I remember even when I was a pro he used to help me out and give me the keys to the gym so I could train during the day.

"Myself, the people who are already there and those who are coming with me all bring something to the table. I expect an extra 10 per cent from everyone now."

Carter will transfer his 10 carded fighters over to his new allegiance, with plans to add more of his prospects as they are cleared in the autumn. Wolverhampton are looking to add a double-figure number themselves.

One of Carter's right-hand men, Gary Sands, is joining him with his younger brother David expected to help out. Tony Evans and Wayne Clenton will do likewise, after taking a course.

## Clearance

Dennis Stephenson, Graham McFayden, George Murrin and Marcus Ashman – who doubles up as matchmaker – are already on the coaching staff, with Lee Goldcott also awaiting clearance.

Gary Bate and Nick Griffiths are fully qualified but have been serving in behind-the-scenes roles, as temporary secretary and treasurer respectively, after George Langford left through ill-health.

Carter will get down to business on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The juniors are put through their paces from 6pm to 7pm, before the seniors train until 8.30pm. Ashman runs the same set-up on Tuesdays and Thursdays, around sparring on Wednesday evenings with other clubs.

Advanced classes are held on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings for the carded fighters. All pay just £3 each time.

They train in an Olympic-sized ring once used by Amir Khan, who donated it to the club after training through those ropes for the 2004 Games in Athens.



Coach Richie keeps a close eye on Jack Carter and Ryan Cotterell



Richie Carter with Louis Reddall, Bobby Speed, Ricky Jackson, Jack Carter, Ryan Cotterell and Lewis Morris





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#### Stourbridge FC fixtures

Aug 13	Warrington Town	A
Aug 15	Hednesford Town	H
Aug 20	Ilkeston	H
Aug 23	Frickley Athletic	A
Aug 27	Nantwich Town	A
Aug 29	Barwell	A
Sep 10	Matlock Town	A
Sep 19	Halesowen Town	H
Sep 24	Whitby Town	H
Sep 27	Stafford Rangers	A
Oct 01	Skelmersdale Utd	A
Oct 05	Corby Town	A
Oct 08	Marine	A
Oct 10	Sutton Coldfield	H
Oct 15	Grantham Town	H
Oct 18	Coalville Town	A
Oct 22	Blyth Spartans	A
Oct 31	Corby Town	A
Nov 05	Spennymoor Town	A
Nov 19	Buxton	H
Nov 26	Workington	H
Dec 03	Mickleover Sports	A
Dec 10	Ashton United	A
Dec 17	Spennymoor Town	H
Dec 24	Hednesford Town	A
Dec 26	Rushall Olympic	H
Jan 02	Barwell	A
Jan 07	Warrington Town	H
Jan 14	Skelmersdale Utd	A
Jan 21	Marine	A
Jan 28	Sutton Coldfield	H
Feb 04	Coalville Town	A
Feb 11	Grantham Town	A
Feb 18	Blyth Spartans	H
Feb 25	Whitby Town	H
Feb 27	Stafford Rangers	A
Mar 04	Matlock Town	A
Mar 07	Halesowen Town	A
Mar 11	Mickleover Sports	A
Mar 18	Workington	A
Mar 25	Ashton United	A
Apr 01	Buxton	A
Apr 08	Ilkeston	A
Apr 15	Frickley Athletic	A
Apr 17	Rushall Olympic	H
Apr 22	Nantwich Town	H

#### Halesowen Town fixtures

Aug 13	Buxton	A
Aug 16	Corby Town	A
Aug 20	Blyth Spartans	H
Aug 23	Nantwich Town	A
Aug 27	Rushall Olympic	A
Aug 29	Hednesford Town	H
Sep 10	Workington	H
Sep 19	Stourbridge	A
Sep 24	Barwell	A
Sep 27	Ilkeston	H
Oct 01	Whitby Town	A
Oct 04	Stafford Rangers	H
Oct 08	Ashton United	H
Oct 11	Mickleover Sports	A
Oct 15	Spennymoor Town	A
Oct 18	Matlock Town	H
Oct 22	Warrington Town	H
Nov 01	Stafford Rangers	A
Nov 05	Coalville Town	A
Nov 19	Skelmersdale Utd	A
Nov 26	Frickley Athletic	H
Dec 03	Marine	A
Dec 10	Grantham Town	A
Dec 17	Coalville Town	A
Dec 24	Corby Town	A
Dec 26	Sutton Coldfield	H
Jan 02	Hednesford Town	A
Jan 07	Buxton	H
Jan 14	Whitby Town	H
Jan 21	Ashton United	A
Jan 28	Mickleover Sports	A
Feb 04	Matlock Town	A
Feb 11	Spennymoor Town	H
Feb 18	Warrington Town	H
Feb 25	Barwell	H
Feb 28	Ilkeston	A
Mar 04	Workington	A
Mar 07	Stourbridge	H
Mar 11	Marine	A
Mar 18	Frickley Athletic	A
Mar 25	Grantham Town	A
Apr 01	Skelmersdale Utd	H
Apr 08	Blyth Spartans	A
Apr 15	Nantwich Town	H
Apr 17	Sutton Coldfield	A
Apr 22	Rushall Olympic	H

## Players in drive to raise charity cash



Sunday Competition winners Joel Skeldon, Steve Collins, captain Ralph Dicker, Lady captain Audrey Parry and Jon Dick

MORE than £2,000 was raised as golfers teed off in aid of charity.

Halesowen Golf Club captains Ralph Dicker and Audrey Parry organised two days of competition, together with a raffle, auctions and tee sponsorship.

Money was raised for Halas Homes, which is celebrating 40 years of providing care and support in Halesowen for adults with learning disabilities.

Prizes for the golf competitions were handed out on the Sunday afternoon when members, families and friends enjoyed a barbecue at the club. Mr

#### Golf

Dicker thanked everyone who had helped make the weekend such a success by

helping him with the organisation and all those who had so kindly donated to the charity fund.

The proceeds will be added to other funds raised during the year and presented to Halas Homes in November at the charity's annual music evening at Halesowen Golf Club.

## Skipper left frustrated by losing draw

STAND-IN Halesowen Cricket Club captain Wes Griffiths was left bitterly disappointed by their losing draw against Coventry and North Warwickshire last Saturday.

His side never got close to their 237 target, finishing their run chase at 184-8 and picking up seven points.

It was a disappointing result which leaves them 16-points being fourth-placed side Old Elizabethans in the Birmingham and District League Division Two at the halfway stage.

Griffiths, who is standing in for Richard Brooker, was frustrated by their performance in his first game in charge.

He said: "We let them get away from us on various occasions in the game, and having started well we allowed them to build partnerships."

"We weren't able to build partnerships at key times and only Will Barrett (63\*) looked likely to take the game away from them."

Griffiths side will look to bounce back on Saturday when they host Harborne at Seth Somers Park (noon), whilst the Second XI will play the same opposition away from home (12.30).

They will head to Harborne high on confidence having recorded an excellent 72-run win over neighbours West Bromwich and Dartmouth last Saturday to move them out of the relegation zone.

A strong all-around batting display saw them score a creditable 201-8 and they bowled out the opposition for 129 to claim 24 vital points.

The Third XI also climbed the table with a six-wicket win over Astwood Bank, who were dismissed for 163. They host Alveley this Saturday (1pm).

The Fourth XI dismissed Astwood Bank for 209, but were bowled out for 179 in reply. They nonetheless remain 10 points clear at the top of the table ahead of a trip to Barnards Green this Saturday (1pm).

## Whiley joins launch of Paralympic squad

JORDANNE Whiley is in high spirits after attending the ParalympicsGB Team Launch in London. The Halesowen wheelchair tennis star is now an eight-time Grand Slam doubles champion with Japan's Yui Kamiji after their third consecutive Wimbledon triumph.

Having won a bronze at London 2012, she has been included in a 10-strong team for Rio, with wheelchair tennis running from September 9-16.

All 19 ParalympicsGB squads for the games were announced at last Saturday's event.

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# CENTURY OLD LEAGUE FOLDS

THE final whistle has blown on one of the West Midlands' longest running amateur football leagues after more than a century.

The Dudley and Cradley Heath League has been forced to admit defeat following a decline in playing numbers. It had run for 106 years.

After running with just one division last season, the prospect of more drop-outs have left the league with no alternative but to call it a day.

The league was formed in 1910 and its most famous player is Ray Westwood, the Kingswinford-born uncle of the great Duncan Edwards.

Having plied his trade on the local park pitches, Westwood went on to play more than 300 times for Bolton and won six England caps.

Secretary Bryan Sutton, of Wordsley, said: "It is really sad that the league has come to an end. There is just a lack of teams and this is the thing now in Sunday adult football. There will be no organised adult football in Dudley."

He first played in the league as a left-back for Darby's Bakeries in 1967 before going on to serve 47 years on the committee. The combined services of fixture secretary John Lawton, treasurer Malcolm Guy, president Trevor Lester, chairman Carl Dakin, press secretary Brian Pedley and referees' secretary Mel Lewis, together with committee members Rob Nicklin and Fred Whitehouse, adds up to 198.

Sutton, who turns 80 this year, said: "I recently found a handbook from four years ago and we had 28 teams. Of those, one still plays in the Warley League, one plays in the Wolverhampton League and two played with us last season. The other 24 don't exist."

"In 1983/84 we had 118 teams across 10 divisions, and we had 12 cup finals. On May 13, 1984, we had three cup finals on the same day and Blackheath Shell played in two of them - one in the morning and one at night."

"In the 70s, Ashtree Rovers were the dominant side, they played down Old Hill, while in recent years AC Turners have been really strong."

One small consolation is that the league's most prestigious cup competition - The Dudley Guest Cup - will continue.



League secretary Bryan Sutton takes a look through his scrapbooks

## Max has eye on the Golden Hammer

CRADLEY skipper Max Clegg is already casting an eye towards the showpiece Golden Hammer individual event next month.

The club have put together their strongest line-up of the modern era for the meeting at Monmore on Tuesday, August 9, in partnership with Dudley Stroke Association.

Clegg said: "The Golden

Hammer is always a massive meeting at Cradley, and with the riders involved it will be a cracking meeting to be riding in."

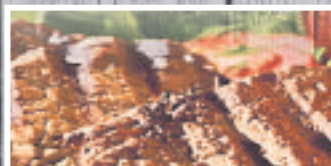
"I've been in it a few years now, and I came close last year finishing second but I've never won it."

"I'd love to go one better and win it this year, especially in front of the home crowd. I know

it's going to be tough, but I don't see why I can't do it."

A big crowd is expected for the 20-heat event, with admission priced at £15 for adults and £12 for concessions whilst kids go free.

Season ticket holders, both adults and concessions, will be admitted for £5 on production of their pass.



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